Caltex starts second round of oil price increases

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, April 15, 2002 ★ 86 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 126 P15

Gloria, father in new P200 bill

By Clarissa S. Batino

A P200 NOTE featuring President Macapagal-Arroyo and her late father Diosdado "Dadong" Macapagal will be unveiled on June 12, the country's 104th year of independence.

It was "Dadong," the "poor boy from

GLORIA/A20

VENEZUELAN President Hugo Chavez returns to power after surviving a two-day failed putsch.

AFP

Venezuela putsch fails; Chavez back in power

CARACAS, Venezuela—Hugo Chavez was freed by his military captors and returned to reclaim the presidency of Venezuela on Sunday in dramatic fashion, two days after the military said he had resigned.

Chavez stepped off a helicopter, smiled and raised his fist as he greeted hundreds of cheering supporters outside the Miraflores presidential palace. Thousands in the streets beyond began singing the Venezuelan national anthem.

Chavez appeared healthy and hugged supporters as a military band played. His return shortly after 3 a.m. followed the resignation of Pedro Carmona, who stepped down amid violent protests after just one day in office as interim president.

Chavez's vice president, Diosdado Cabello, had declared himself acting president until Chavez's return from military custody.

Chavez's family, supporters and former government officials insisted he never resigned as president, as Carmona and Venezuela's high command had claimed.

"Today, we are celebrating a new democracy," said a man who took a microphone to greet Chavez.

The Organization of American States was sending a delegation to Venezuela to assess the situation.

Chavez is a former army paratrooper who led a failed 1992 coup but was elected in 1998 on an anti-poverty platform. His term was to end in 2006.

Chavez's attorney general, Isaias Rodriguez, told Carmona's ministers they were under arrest pending possible charges.

"They must take responsibility. They will be put on trial with all their rights, but they will be put on trial," Cabello said.

VENEZUELA/A20

Powell sees Arafat amid war rubble

RAMALLAH, West Bank—US Secretary of State Colin Powell motored through this city's war-battered streets yesterday to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his heavily damaged headquarters, a cluster of buildings almost destroyed by Israeli forces.

Powell got a glimpse of the destruction he is trying to end as his motorcade of six armored vans wound through a desolate landscape of sewage pools and gunfire-riddled cars in the 20-kilometer journey from Jerusalem.

Saeb Erekat, a top Arafat aide, met Powell outside the compound where Arafat is confined by Israeli troops.

Carrying a sheaf of papers and bearing a serious expression, Powell entered the compound surrounded by helmeted US security personnel armed with submachine guns. He said nothing to reporters as he entered the headquarters, a structure heavily damaged by Israeli shelling and gunfire.

A gaping hole was torn in the blackened exterior wall of the compound, which was marked by bullet tracks. Many buildings had been reduced to piles of rubble.

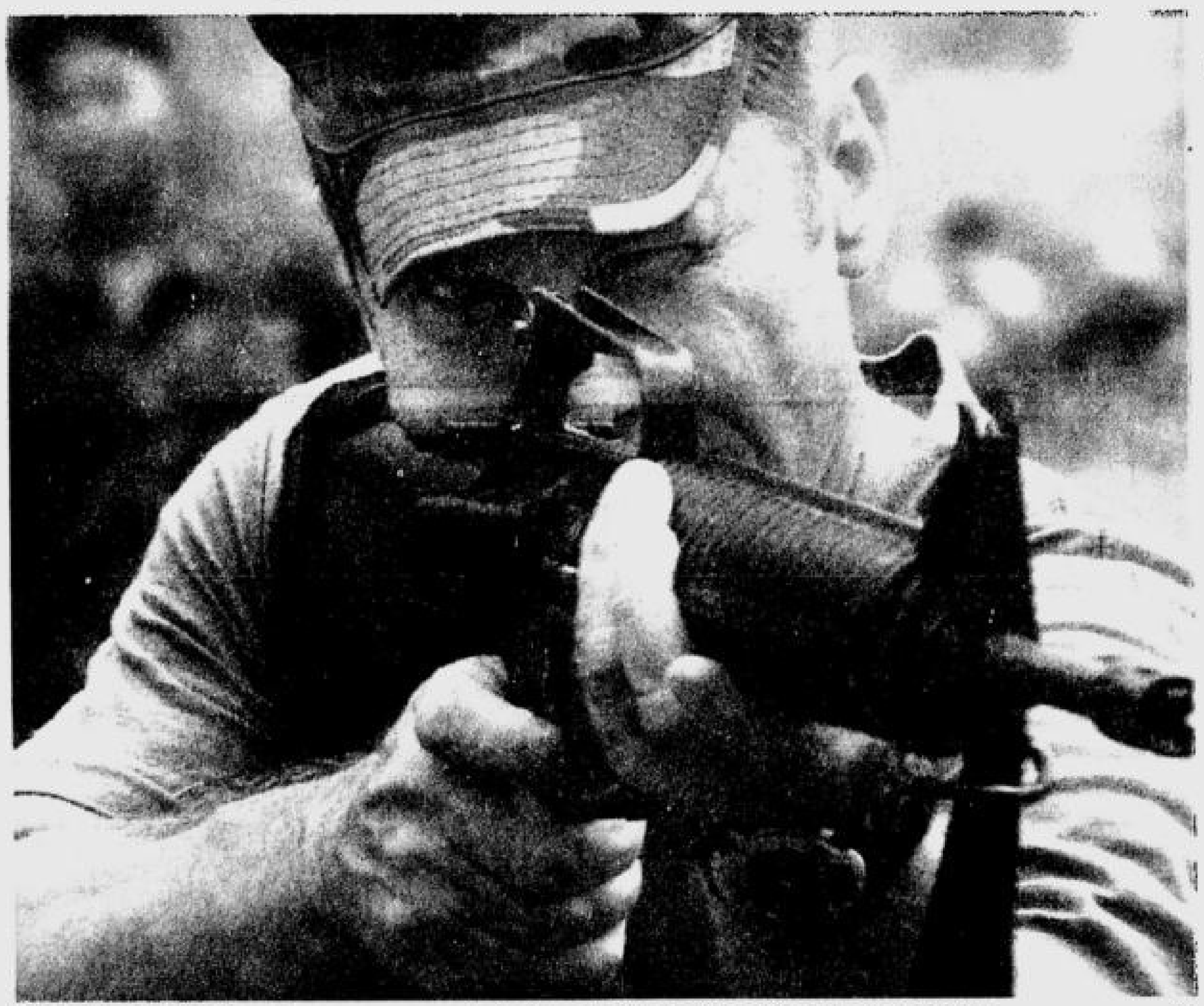
Powell and Arafat then met in a dining room, seated at a long table with their aides at their side.

The two began talks just after 0800 GMT (4 p.m., Manila time) to discuss "an end to terror and violence and an early resumption of a political process" to get Israel and the Palestinians back to the peace table, a US spokesperson said.

But hopes are not high that the increasingly bloody deadlock between Arafat and his old foe, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, will be broken

POWELL/A21

GIs will shoot back at NPA rebs–Tiglao



S/Sgt. Gavin Hutchison shows proper gun techniques to Filipino troops in Lantawan, Basilan.

AP

2,003 US troops due today at Clark

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

AMERICAN forces participating in joint Balikatan war exercises with Filipino soldiers will fight back if attacked by communist guerrillas, Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"They (Americans) can act in self-defense," Tiglao said in reaction to the order issued by Armando Liwanag, chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to its armed wing, the New People's Army, to "inflict severe casualties on the invading US forces."

The right to self-defense is explicitly contained in the terms of reference (TOR) for Balikatan 02-1 but only because American forces are placed in combat areas, particularly in Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf's stronghold.

Previous exercises, all of which were held in Luzon and the Visayas, did not require a TOR.

The directive of Liwanag, widely believed to be the *nom de guerre* of exiled CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, was published in Ang Bayan, the official publication of the CPP Central Committee.

"We were expecting it even before he (Sison) made

GIs/A20

Negros Occ. festival shows promise of diversification

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

BACOLOD CITY—The biggest crowd drawer here in the midst of the blistering dry spell is the 2002 Panaad sa Negros Festival, an annual exhibition of Negros Occidental's economic harvests and products.

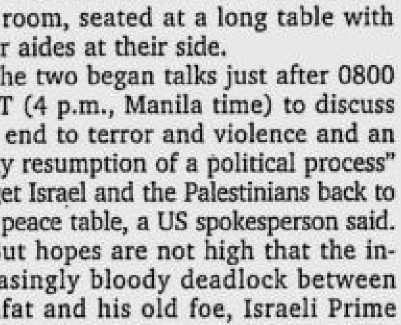
The harvest of the 2002 sugarcane crop is winding down this month and cane farmers are expecting a good crop and better prices than in 1999 and 2000. The agricultural optimism is reflected in the enthusiasm with which the festival is celebrated from Saturday until April 21.

The more than 30 cities and towns of Negros Occidental have set up booths exhibiting their products, as well as their cultural and gastronomic assets. The Panaad sa Negros (Promise of Negros) has been celebrated during the past five years to show that Negros Occidental is staging an economic revival against the decline of the sugar industry in the Philippines.

If we are to judge the struggle from the exhibits in the festivals, the Negrenses are fighting an uphill battle against the mono-crop economy into which they have been locked since the advent of the American colonial administration, when sugar exports, pro-

NEGROS/A21

Stars join Banahaw cause



BANAL NA BUNDOK 'TO! HINDI BASURAHAN!

By Volt Contreras

FOR as long as anyone can remember, Mt. Banahaw has been a place of solace, a refuge where one could, as the saying goes, lose one's mental and spiritual baggage. Unfortunately, Filipinos over the years have also left something else—something physical—behind. Trash.

After every Holy Week, in fact, the sacred mountain yields truckloads of garbage deposited by pilgrims and tourists. The mess has become so bad

STARS/A20

US tourist visa means 30-day stay

By Crispin R. Aranda
Contributor

FILIPINOS visiting kith and kin in the United States might soon feel they are being rushed through their visits, contrary to the usually long and leisurely Pinoy-style stays.

That's because the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has just made it harder for tourists to enter the United States, in the wake of several lapses by the agency with regard to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

The INS finalized on April 11 the rule limiting the period of a tourist's stay in the United States to 30 days, instead of the usual six months.

The rule also states the visa holder must adequately establish the "precise nature and purpose of the visit."

Former US non-immigrant visa chief Edward Keller said that last year alone, 192,000 Filipinos were issued non-immigrant visas, half of them for tourists.

The INS rule is likely to result in a

US/A7

Peace builders tap karaoke, oral poetry

By Lina Sagaral Reyes
Contributor

NAAWAN, Misamis Oriental—Transfiguracion Razo stands to recite what the Visayans call the "*balak*," traditional poetry formed by a series of twin lines with end-words that rhyme.

Her audience cheers, drowning out the shrill concert of crickets among the ancient acacias in this secluded beach resort.

But four lines later, the cheers turn to rapt silence and serious listening: for Razo's oral poetry, though full of funny images, is a scathing inventory and critique of problems besetting her town of Linamon, west of Iligan City, along the Pan-Philippine Highway toward the Panguil Bay.

Razo and her group are in a culture-

PEACE/A20

DENNIS SABANGAN

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Lorna Tolentino wins her second Best Actress award for "Abakada . . . Ina," which she says was in answer to her prayers, during the 50th Famas awards. Armando Goyena is Best Actor and Jiro Manio is Best Child Actor. *(Story on Page A27.)*

Second FRONT PAGE

NAGTAAS ULI PARA DAW DI TAYO MABIGLA!

2nd round of oil price hikes starts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CALTEX Philippines has started the second round of price increases of oil products, hiking its gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 10 centavos per liter effective at noon yesterday.

New oil firm Eastern Petroleum Corp. followed with the same amount of increase at midnight last night.

But domestic refiners Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and the smaller oil companies—TotalFinaElf Phil. Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V—said they would keep their prices at current levels.

This latest round is the second of a series of phased price adjustments which started on April 7 when practically all the oil companies increased their prices by 50 centavos.

Marian Catedral, Caltex corporate affairs manager, said the firm believed that its strategy of moving prices up or down more frequently—in smaller amounts and in keeping with market forces—served to benefit the public.

"We think this is an effective way to help customers against the impact of sudden and large price swings," Catedral said.

She said prices were also rising in Thailand, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

"In Thailand, prices have moved up six times since Jan. 30," Catedral said.

She said the increases were equivalent to a total of P2 per liter in the Philippines.

With the latest increase, the prices of Caltex's petroleum products have gone up by an average of 95 centavos per liter since January.

Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron's corporate communications manager, said the firm was still assessing its pricing situation.

"Maybe (the other oil companies are raising prices because) they incurred higher costs," Ruivivar said.

Petron, however, determines its prices independently, she said.

She said earlier that the second round of increases would come at the end of the month.

Caltex said that waiting until the end of the month would mean only bigger increases.

Pilipinas Shell said it was still monitoring crude price movements and has not decided on a price increase.

TotalFinaElf, on the other hand, said it needed to raise prices but it was not sure on when and by how much.

Average crude prices hit $22.96 per barrel in March, up by $3.94 from $19.02 in February.

The peso gained 23 centavos, from P51.29 to the dollar in February to P51.06 in March.

Burned ferry sinks in Tayabas Bay

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Delfin T. Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The torment of waiting for the recovery of the missing passengers from the MV Maria Carmela, which caught fire on Thursday morning off Pagbilao, Quezon, is now over for their loved ones.

The charred remains of the MV Maria Carmela sank just a little past noon yesterday, about a kilometer away from the Dalahican pier, dashing all hopes of the relatives ever recovering their dead.

As the ship made its slow descent into the cold bottom of Tayabas Bay, wails of anguish could be heard from the pier where hundreds of the missing passengers' relatives had been holding vigil for days.

Vice Admiral Reuben Lista, the head of the Philippine Coast Guard, said eight divers had been sent to check if there are still bodies inside the sunken vessel.

He said the Coast Guard did not have the capability to refloat the ship.

The Coast Guard has so far recovered 26 bodies. The ship had 324 passengers, 81 of whom were not in the manifest.

Lista, who said the ship had a passenger capacity of 348, stressed that the ship was not overcrowded.

For about three hours before the ferry finally sank, the Special Rescue Unit of the Bureau of Fire Protection could be seen spraying the burning ship with dry chemicals to put out the fire.

The firemen were aboard another Montenegro ferry that was anchored near the MV Maria Carmela.

A team from the Quezon police crime laboratory was also on hand, aboard a PNP Maritime speedboat, waiting for orders to start the retrieval operation.

Angry relatives have vented their frustration on the Montenegro Shipping Lines, the owner of the doomed vessel, accusing the company of deliberately sinking the burning ship to erase any trace of its negligence.

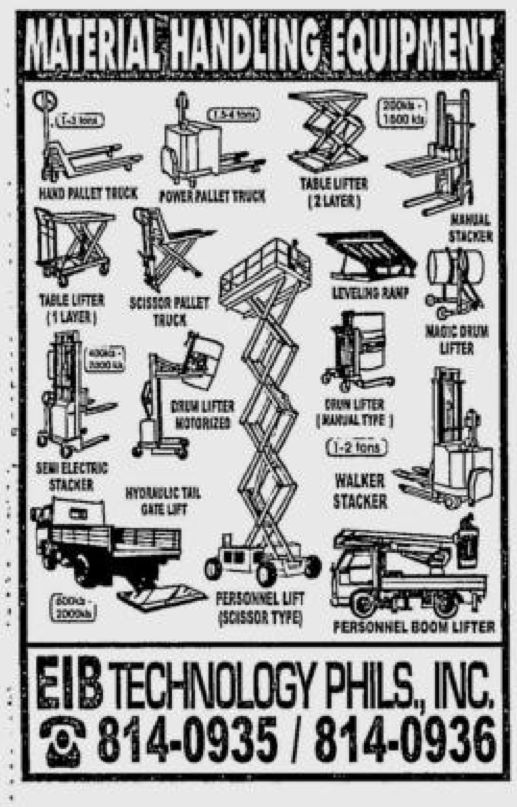
The relatives questioned the alleged "maneuvering" by Montenegro Shipping to have what remained of the burning vessel sunk.

"With the MV Maria Carmela under water, there would be no more traces of Montenegro's negligence," said Roel Caaway, a brother of a missing crewmember.

If not for a security cordon put up by the Lucena City police, angry relatives would have overrun the Montenegro ticketing booth and probably hurt the staff.

The relatives also complained of the lack of attention to their plight by the shipping company.

"They don't even give us decent and sufficient food as we sit and face a seemingly endless wait here," they claimed.



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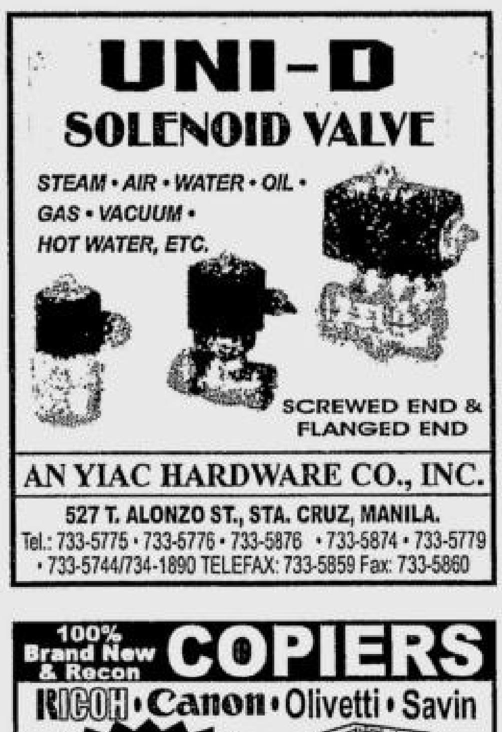
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Basilan security beefed up for Blair visit

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military tightened security yesterday in the island-province of Basilan and placed troops on alert for a visit by Adm. Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Command.

Blair arrived in Manila yesterday and will fly South today to meet with Philippine military officials, including Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu in Zamboanga City, said US military spokeswoman Maj. Cynthia Teramae.

Blair, who retires from his post May 2, is also expected to visit American forces stationed in Basilan, said Col. Alexander Aleo.

"We are prepared and security preparations are already in place for Blair's visit in Basilan," Aleo said.

Blair will visit US troops stationed at the Philippine Army base in Basilan's capital, Isabela, where he will be briefed by US Special Forces commander Col. Donald Maxwell on the exercise's progress, Aleo said.

A total of 660 US troops, including 160 from the Special Forces, have been in the southern Philippines since January helping train Filipino troops in counterterrorism measures against the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse for more than 10 months, the last hostages from a kidnapping spree that began on May 27. Aleo said security forces continue to hunt down guerrillas in Basilan and that rescue operations are ongoing.

"Guerrillas are now on the run because of the military operation, and sooner or later, we will be able to get back all the hostages. It's only a matter or time," Aleo said.

US officials in Washington also have said they are monitoring negotiations for the release of the hostages that could involve payment of ransom.

Blair is expected to be replaced by Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Fleet. *AP*

2 NPA camps found in Zambo Sur

PAGADIAN CITY—Government troops have uncovered two major communist guerrilla camps in Zamboanga del Sur, officials said yesterday.

The discovery of the training camps came amid threats from the communist New People's Army that they would attack US troops assisting Filipino troops in hunting down Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in the South.

The camps, located in forested areas bordering two towns, were discovered last week after villagers complained of being forced to pay extortion money by the NPA, Col. Jet Velarmino, commanding officer of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion said.

Troops were dispatched to the area, but the rebels had already fled. One army unit caught up with the fleeing guerrillas, triggering a gun battle but there were no reports of casualties on either side.

The camps were apparently being used by the NPA as a "springboard of their terroristic activities in the region," said regional army chief Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo.

Documents, wooden rifles apparently used to train new recruits and food supplies abandoned by the rebels were recovered from the camps, he said.

The first camp included 50 bunkers capable of housing about 100 guerrillas while the second is located on a mountainous area covered by a thick forest.

Discovery of the NPA strongholds was initially kept from the public because military experts "were still exploiting several vital information and documents found in these camps."

The 11,930-strong NPA is the guerrilla unit of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines. Peace talks with the group was suspended last year after the rebels assassinated two legislators. *AFP*

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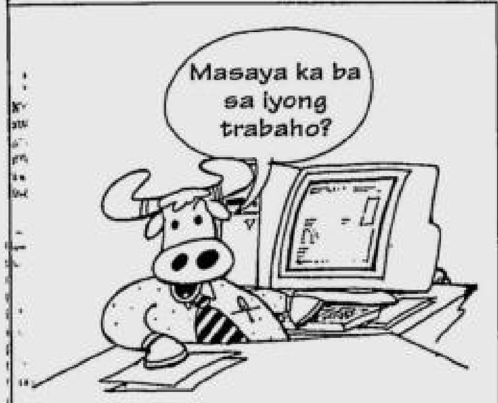

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Erap tries to muster one last hurrah on his birthday

THE CROWDS have thinned, the fanfare has stopped, but deposed President Joseph Estrada hopes to pull off one last great performance a year after being arrested on massive graft charges.

While authorities are not expecting any trouble on the anniversary of Estrada's arrest on Monday, they are bracing for attempts by his supporters to mark a huge riot they staged at the palace gates on May 1 last year.

Estrada's followers have recently announced plans to stage protests against higher fuel and power rates, blaming his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, for the increases.

Estrada, who turns 65 on April 19, remains in detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City and is trying to depict himself as a victim of a biased justice system.

The former movie star and college drop-out used showbiz fame, a common touch and a populist platform to win the presidency in 1998, propelled by the votes of millions of impoverished Filipinos who saw him as their champion.

But his presidency was dogged by charges of misgovernment and graft, culminating in a corruption scandal that sparked a popular uprising in January 2001.

He was ousted and replaced by Ms Macapagal, then his vice president.

On April 16 last year, he was first arrested on charges related to a graft scandal. He swiftly posted bail but was later jailed on a more serious, non-bailable offense of "plunder," a charge theoretically punishable by death.

Playing martyr

Since then, Estrada has waged a legal struggle to undermine the Macapagal administration and attempted to raise his own political profile and rally his impoverished following.

In his latest gambit, Estrada has played the martyr by dismissing his defense lawyers and saying he cannot get justice in the courts.

He is also demanding to be allowed to go to the United States for knee surgery saying he risks being crippled.

Although educated Filipinos were glad to see Estrada gone, he still retains a following among the poor and this has worried the Macapagal administration.

Four people were killed and scores injured when Estrada supporters staged a bloody riot at the presidential palace gates on May 1 last year in a failed bid to topple Ms Macapagal.

In recent weeks, Estrada supporters have been warning of another such protest action on the anniversary of the last riot. This May 1, they plan to set up a massive "human chain" through the city, starting from the hospital where their hero is detained.

Waning support

But recent surveys have shown that Estrada's appeal is petering out.

In a nationwide poll conducted in mid-March, the respected Social Weather Station research group found that only 31 percent of respondents trusted Estrada, while 46 percent distrusted him.

ESTRADA

Ms Macapagal meanwhile maintained a healthy 48 percent satisfaction rating with only 32 percent dissatisfied with her.

"Political support for the administration remains healthy, with no sign of transfer of public sympathy to the opposition," SWS said in a statement.

A survey of Metro Manila residents by polling firm Pulse Asia Inc. in late-March found that 41 percent had little trust for Estrada compared to 26 percent who trusted him.

Ms Macapagal and other public figures rated far ahead of Estrada. Only suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden scored lower.

"Those day-dreaming of another round of political attacks against this administration should take note of the SWS findings, so they won't waste their money," said the newly married Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao.

Felipe Miranda, head of Pulse Asia, said his survey's findings "suggest that (Estrada) is not all that much of a political force. (But) that does not mean he is a spent political force."

"The poor people are not all that excited about Estrada followers somehow being able to put together something like the May 1 rally," Miranda said.

But the survey also found large numbers of undecided who could be swung towards Estrada.

"You can have people somehow provoking sensitivities to the extent that massive demonstrations could take place," Miranda warned. *AFP*

Country marks Roxas' 54th death anniversary today

TODAY is the 54th death anniversary of President Manuel Acuña Roxas, the third and last president of the Commonwealth and the first president of the Republic of the Philippines.

The President Manuel Roxas Foundation (PMRF) and Clark Air Base-Clark Development Corp. will lead the commemorative activities starting with a wreath laying at the North Cemetery in the morning and a memorial program at the Clark Air Base parade grounds at noon.

Roxas suffered a heart attack while delivering a speech at the Collin Kelly Theater in Clark on April 15, 1948. He died that night at the quarters of Gen. Eugene Eubank.

As a tribute, Clark organizes every year the President Roxas death anniversary rites. Today's affair will be attended by the late president's daughter Ruby R. Roxas, grandson and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, PMRF president Lina Laigo and other members of the Roxas family.

In Roxas City, the anniversary rites will be led by the president's daughter-in-law Judy Araneta Roxas, wife of the late senator Gerardo "Gerry" Roxas. There will also be an exhibit of the Roxas memorabilia at the local museum of Roxas City.

Capping this year's anniversary program is the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the PMRF and the University of the Philippines, launching several tie-up programs and services commemorating the life and contributions of the late president. The signing will be held at the Office of the UP President on April 22 at 4 p.m.

The late president was born to Gerardo Roxas Sr. and Rosario Acuña on Jan. 1, 1892 in Capiz (now Roxas City). He was a posthumous child. His father Gerardo was mortally wounded by Spanish soldiers the year before, leaving him and his older brother Mamerto to be raised by their mother and Don Eleuterio, their maternal grandfather.

Roxas received his early education in the public schools of Capiz, and at age 12, attended St. Joseph's Academy in Hong Kong. Feeling homesick, he went back to Capiz. He eventually moved to Manila High School (later named the Araullo High School), graduating with highest honors in 1909.

Roxas began his law studies at a private law school established by George Malcolm, the first dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law. On his second year, he enrolled at UP, where he was elected president of both his class and the Student Council. In 1913, Roxas obtained his law degree, graduated class valedictorian, and subsequently topped the first bar examinations with a grade of 92 percent. He was the first bar topnotcher of the Philippines.

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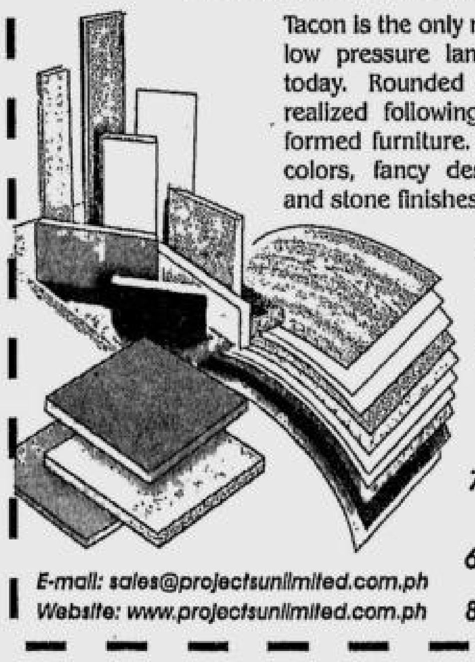

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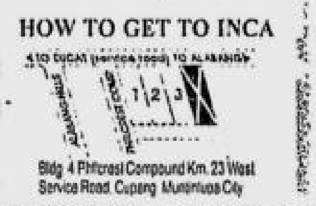

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Big labor groups start preparations for massive May 1 rally

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COUNTRY'S major labor groups forged a pact on Saturday to stage the biggest-ever May 1 rally in defiance of President Macapagal-Arroyo's order making Labor Day a working day.

The President had moved the celebration of Labor Day to April 29, a Monday, as part of what has been labeled her "holiday economics"—three-day weekends intended to allow workers and their families to tour the country and spend money.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Partido ng Mangagawa (PM), Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), National Federation of Labor Unions (NAFLU), National Federation of Labor (NFL) and the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Makabayan) agreed to work out joint protest activities on Labor Day.

Some 200,000 workers and their families are expected to converge in Manila to protest what they called the "government's attack on the rights and welfare of workers" on the centennial of unionism in the Philippines.

BMP president Victor Briz blasted the President for disregarding the significance of this year's Labor Day celebration, when the organized labor movement marks 100 years in the country. He said the labor groups are contemplating questioning the proclamation in court.

Briz and PM national chair Renato Magtubo pointed out that moving the Labor Day celebration to April 29 violated Article 94-c of the Labor Code of the Philippines, which lists the national holidays.

Magtubo said the President's "holiday economics" was not basis enough for her proclamation. Only Congress could change the dates of national celebrations, he said.

At the big May 1 rally, the various labor groups said they will reiterate their call for a living wage. The living wage in Metro Manila last year was P506 a day for a family of six, the daily minimum wage is currently just under P300.

Briz said the demonstration will also be directed at the DOLE, which has been trying to "kill" unions in the country, ''ironically while heralding the 100th anniversary of organized labor in the country."

Briz said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas' frequent assumption of jurisdiction in labor disputes effectively blocked the workers' right to strike.

The BMP leader said Sto. Tomas has gravely abused her powers by giving employers the right to dismiss striking employees who defy return-to-work orders that accompany the DOLE secretary's assumption of jurisdiction in failed negotiations.

"She (Sto. Tomas) makes it very hard for the workers to achieve anything in CBA talks because she comes in even while conciliation by the National Mediation and Conciliation Board is going on," Briz said.

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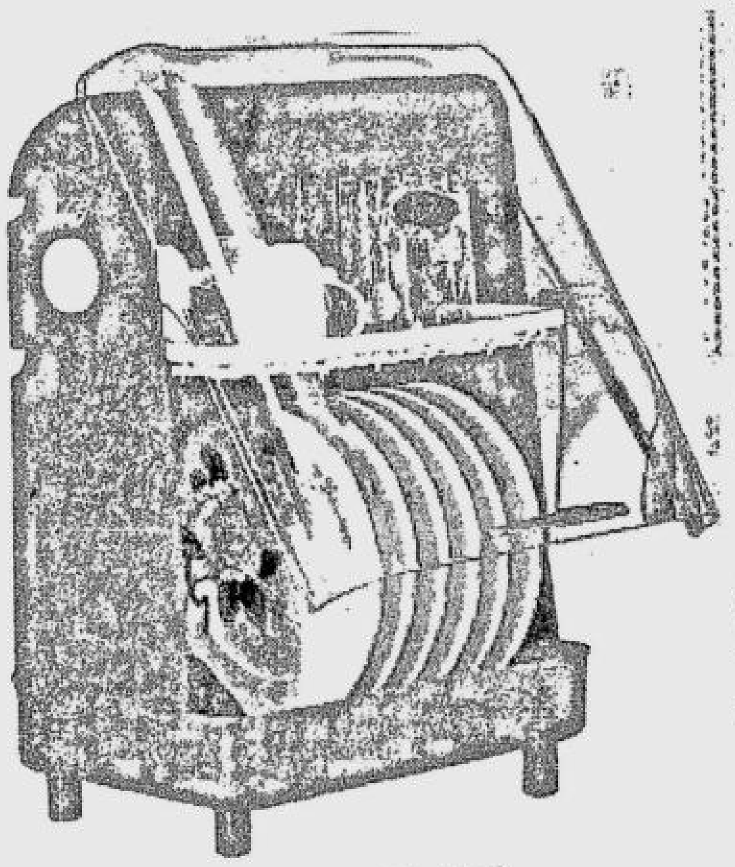

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CONDURA
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Senator bats for con-con in 2004 polls, effectivity in 2010

By Rocky Nazareno

AN ADMINISTRATION senator has filed a resolution calling for the creation of a constitutional convention to amend the 1987 Constitution—but on two conditions that could irk the proponents of Charter change.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan wants the con-con held two years from now with its members elected along with the political candidates during the 2004 national elections.

"This will solve our problem of expenses for a con-con," Pangilinan told the INQUIRER.

And he wants the amendments to take effect in 2010. "This would de-politicize the con-con since it would (discourage) vested interests," Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said.

But Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao warned members of Congress yesterday against using public funds to drum up public support for Charter change.

The lawmakers are reportedly planning to hold barangay assemblies nationwide to determine the public pulse on the issue and to find out what amendments the people want to the 1987 Constitution. *(See related story on p. A14)*

"Where will they get the resources?" Tiglao asked, noting that the legislators are prohibited from using their Countrywide Development Funds, or pork barrel, for the purpose since there are specific guidelines for the use of the CDF.

The 2002 national budget does not contain any allocation for consultations on Charter change. Majority of the senators and congressmen, however, are for amending the Constitution.

Pangilinan said a con-con "would prove to be the only credible way to amend the Constitution that would reflect the real pulse of all sectors of society."

"We're looking at a timetable of six months (for the con-con to do its work)," he said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had proposed the "Drilon formula" of making constitutional amendments through the regular process of passing a law.

Under the formula, amendments to the 1987 Constitution could be proposed through resolutions filed by senators and congressmen.

And like any other law, these would be referred to the Senate or House committees concerned. The committees would then hold hearings and consultations on the proposed amendments.

The changes would then be taken up in plenary session after the committees submit a final report.

Once approved in second and third readings and on a two-thirds vote of Congress, the amendments will be submitted to the people for ratification.

With Carlito Pablo

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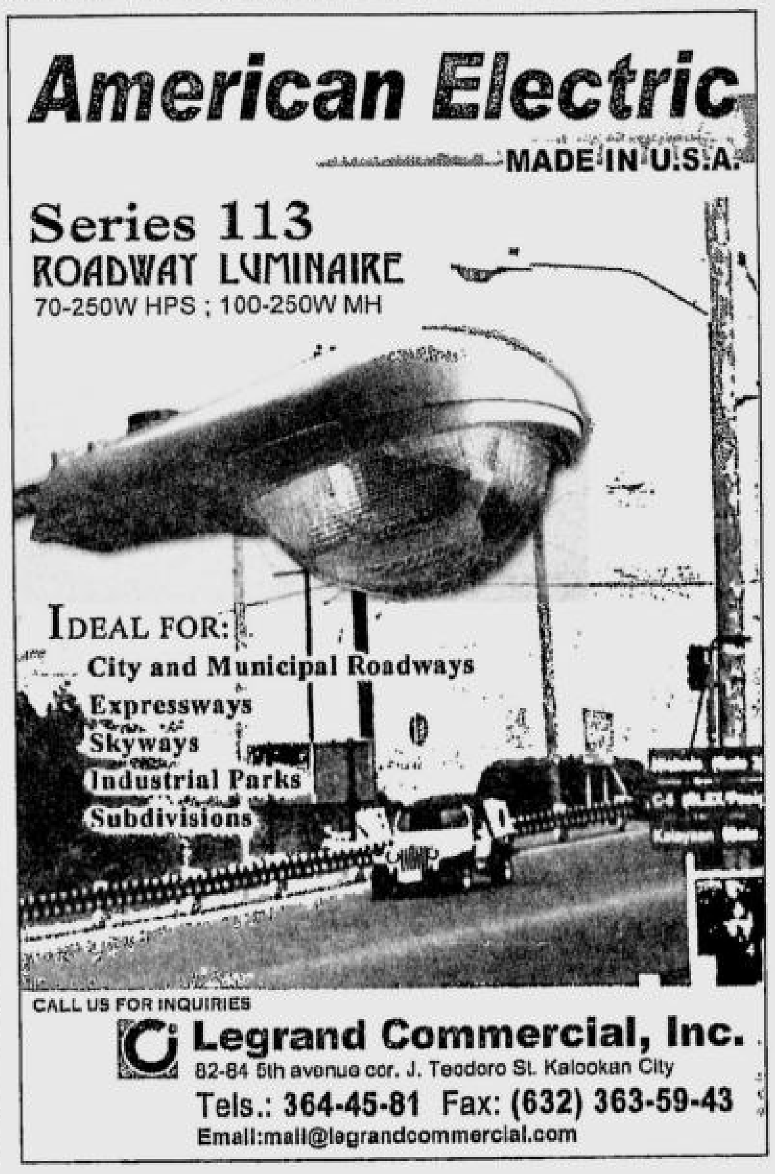
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US tourist visa means 30-day stay

From page A1

stricter scrutiny of tourist visa applications, thus increasing the ratio of denials, which, Keller said, was at 32 percent.

Having a US visa does not guarantee admission into the United States. And with the new rule, the burden of proof (of returning to the Philippines) just got heavier.

An INS officer at the US port of entry will determine what he believes is a "fair and reasonable" amount of time needed for the visa holder's stated purpose of visit.

In case of doubt on what constitutes "fair and reasonable," the rule continues, the tourist visa holder "shall be admitted for a period of 30 days."

The limit on visits came on the heels of several INS missteps that created a huge public outcry and condemnation even from supporters of the agency, including the White House.

Too little, late

The US Congress is on the verge of approving the split of the INS into two agencies. A House judiciary committee is prepared to approve an unusual bipartisan bill on Wednesday that would abolish the immigration service and split its functions into two separate bureaus—one for enforcement and the other for services.

The bureaus will be overseen by a new associate attorney general, who would be the third-ranking official in the Justice Department, the immigration service's parent agency.

"If there is one thing that every member of the committee can agree on, it's that the Immigration and Naturalization Service is inefficient, ineffective and, in many respects, incompetent," said Rep. John Conyers Jr. (Michigan), the top Democrat on the committee.

The INS move to limit the stay of tourists to 30 days and restrict tourist visa holders from converting to student visa status seems to be a last-ditch attempt to stave off the agency's break-up, if not its abolition.

The move, however, appears to be too little too late.

Similar legislation in the Senate sponsored by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts), and Sam Brownback (Republican, Kansas), is likely to be introduced this week or the next, congressional aides said.

The INS had tried to restructure itself over the years. It increased the cost of petition and application fees and tripled its budget to $6.2 billion from 1979.

Despite staff and fee increases, the INS has more than 5 million petitions and applications pending.

Visit limits

Using the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as an excuse for limiting visits, the INS said the "attacks . . . demonstrated that (the one-year maximum stay in the US for tourists) is susceptible to abuse by aliens who seek to plan and execute acts of terrorism."

Since virtually all legitimate tourists and business visitors are able to accomplish the purposes of their visit in less than six months, the INS reduced the maximum allowable stay for tourists from the current one-year period to only six months. Now it is 30 days.

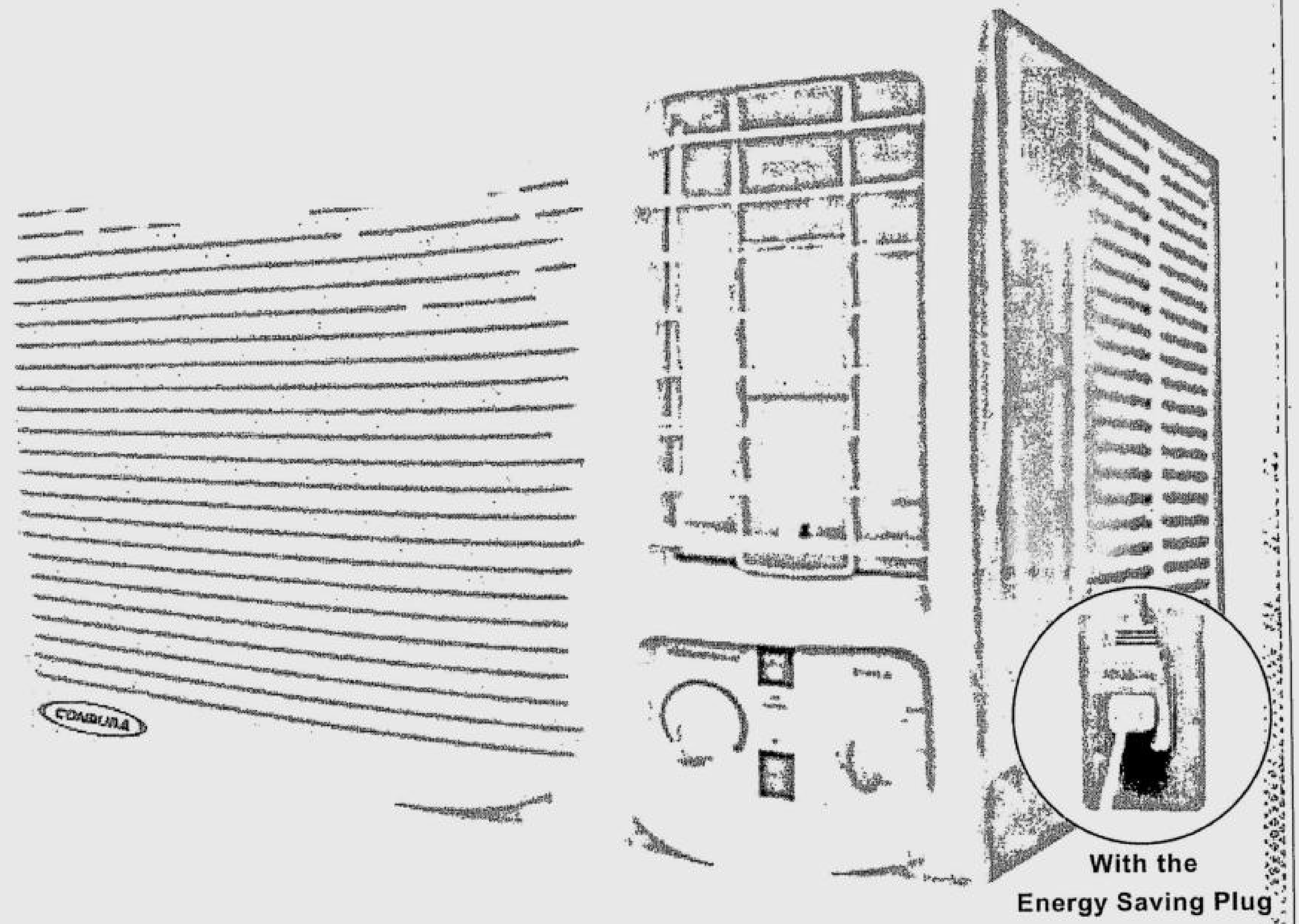
If a tourist visa holder needs to extend his or her authorized stay in the United States, such an extension would be granted only "in cases that resulted from unexpected events—which are out of the alien's control—compelling humanitarian reasons, such as for emergency or continuing medical treatment . . ."

The INS rule states that when requesting an extension, the tourist visa holder must provide documentary evidence "showing ties to the country of residence and possession of sufficient financial means to remain in the country for the requested period of time."

Proof of financial means would include current bank records and lease or real property ownership documents in the tourist's country of residence or nationality.

The INS move followed embarrassing revelations the agency had approved the visa applications of two of the hijackers who rammed planes into the World Trade Center. The two principal hijackers entered the United States with valid tourist visas, which they later converted to student status (F-1).

(Crispin R. Aranda is a US-based immigrant specialist. He has offices in San Francisco, California, and is the first and only Filipino with broadcast and print updates on US immigration and visa matters. He hosted the program, "Amerika, Atbp.," on IBC-13. He also has a regular column on immigration in The Philippine News, the national newspaper of Filipinos in the United States. His firm, US Immigrant Service Network, has been serving Filipino and immigrant communities in the United States since 1986.)



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High court lessons

EDITORIAL

THE POWER to appoint is the power to disappoint. That was the lesson in 1986 when Corazon Aquino replaced thousands of Marcos-era officials with so-called officers in charge, or OICs. That was the lesson last week when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo named the country's newest Supreme Court justices.

Out of 10 candidates nominated by the nine-person Judicial and Bar Council, the President named presidential chief of staff Renato Corona and Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ma. Alicia Austria Martinez to replace retired Supreme Court Associate Justices Bernardo Pardo and Arturo Buena.

There is no controversy regarding Martinez; the chief judge of the Court of Appeals is traditionally a front-runner in any race for a high court seat. Her posting also brings the number of women judges in the high tribunal to three—a welcome development. It is too early to say whether the three women justices—the other two being Consuelo Ynares Santiago and Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez—will constitute a conscience bloc of sorts on women's issues. Besides, the Supreme Court organizes its work according to divisions. But Martinez's appointment does remind us, if we needed any reminding, that a woman on the 15-person Supreme Court is no longer a political token. We look forward to the day when the composition of the high court reflects with greater fidelity the role that women lawyers play in the country.

The public's sense of dismay, however, is over the appointment of Corona, who has been chief of staff of Ms Macapagal since she was Vice President.

By most accounts, Corona is a competent government official and a respected lawyer. The day after his appointment, Supreme Court spokesperson Ismail Khan succinctly laid the case before the public. "Corona is unassailable with his legal credentials and his experience as a lawyer," Khan said.

Khan was merely speaking the truth, but it is a truth that does not answer the main issue against Corona: that by the nature of his previous work he may be beholden to Ms Macapagal, that because of the work he had rendered on behalf of the President he cannot be expected to be truly independent of her.

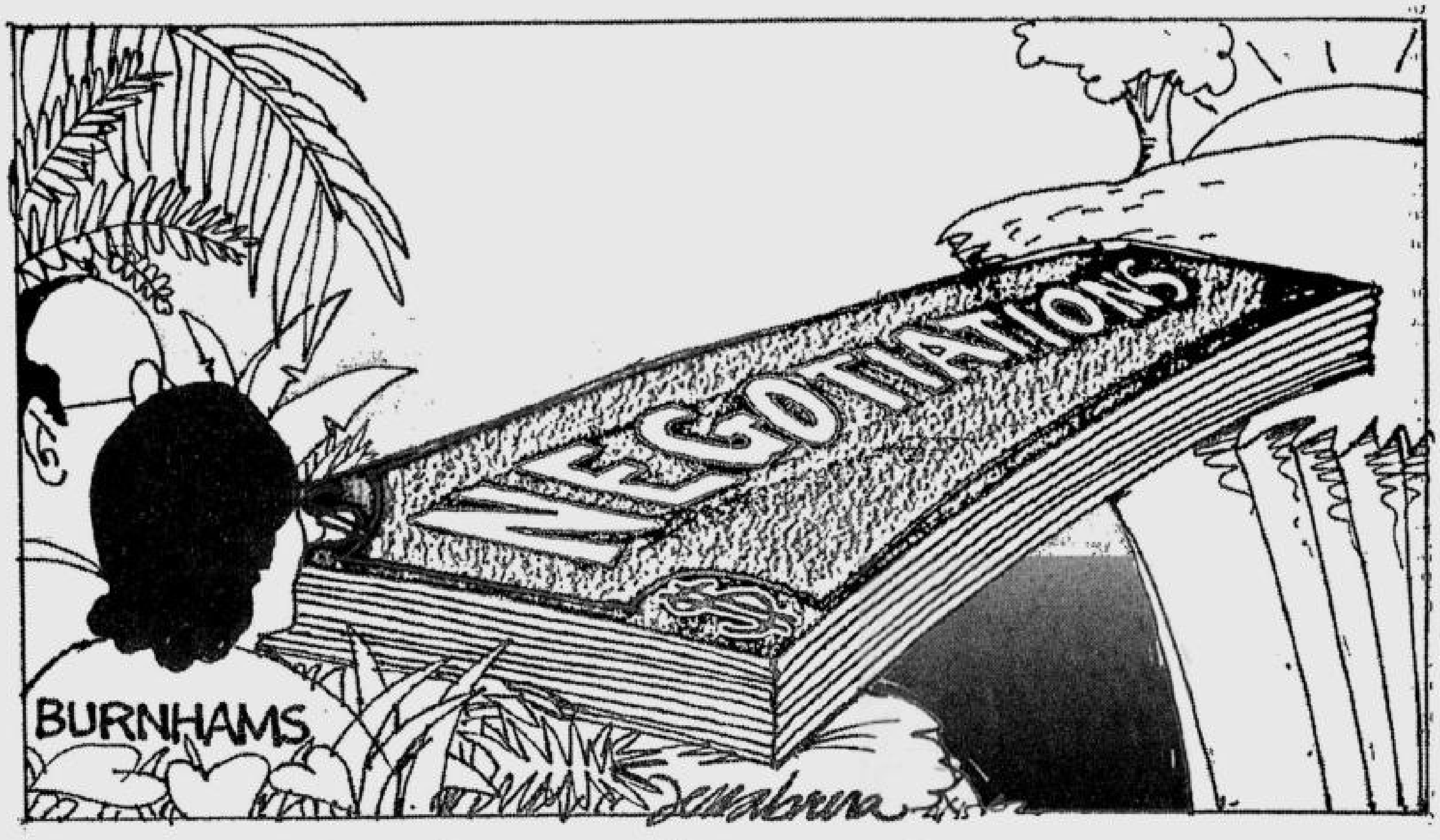
There are other issues, such as Corona's lack of judicial experience, but these are obvious attempts to muddy the waters. On closer scrutiny, the disinterested observer can see that the main argument against Corona does not lie in the qualifications of the appointee, but—broadly speaking—in those of the appointing power. In other words, it is not in the context of Corona's previous work that the President's critics find the biggest cause for worry; it is in the context of the President's other appointments.

Between May and August, three more Supreme Court justices will retire. That means that, possibly before the fourth quarter, President Macapagal would have filled one-third of the high tribunal's seats this year alone. That also means that, a mere 18 months after assuming office, Ms Macapagal would have appointed six members of the court—joining seven justices appointed by Fidel Ramos and two by deposed President Joseph Estrada. (Chief Justice Hilario Davide is a special case; one of the seven Ramos appointees still on the court, he was named chief of the high court by Estrada in 1999.)

This embarrassment of appointment opportunities has taken on political color, not only because of the Supreme Court's historic decisions on the Estrada cases, but also because of the President's first appointment.

Her first appointee to the high court was Antonio Carpio, who played a key and effective role for what was then the opposition during the uncertain days of the impeachment trial and the Estrada ouster. Since assuming his seat six months ago, Carpio—a top-notch lawyer by all accounts—has not acted in any way that can be construed as slavishness to Malacañang. But it is also fair to say that he continues to labor under that impression. Unfortunately, it is an impression that he will continue to labor under for some time, albeit now in the company of Corona.

Aside from liberally applying what Justice George Malcolm called in another context the balm of a good conscience, the two gentlemen also have recourse to the history of the Supreme Court itself, which is replete with brilliant examples of appointees acting independently of the appointing power. Perhaps Claudio Teehankee, the Great Dissenter during the dark days of martial rule, was the most famous. But he certainly wasn't the only one, and he won't be the last.



Greed makes tariff protection necessary

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II should be commended for finally admitting that he cannot overturn the decision of the Tariff Commission rejecting a petition of the cement cartel for protective tariff against imported cement. It took the Department of Justice to knock some sense into his head. He had asked the DOJ for a legal opinion, thinking that it would give him a favorable ruling. He was in for a rude shock.

He was told that neither he nor the entire Cabinet—not even the President—can overrule the negative decision of the Tariff Commission. Its decision can be modified—for the public good—only if it is positive, meaning it is for the imposition of tariff.

Roxas was angry with the DOJ ruling, said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. "Why did you rule against me?" Roxas asked his fellow Cabinet member.

"Why did you ask for my legal opinion?" Perez snapped back. "That is what the law says. I cannot bend it just to please you. If you don't like my legal opinion, you shouldn't have asked for it."

"What can we do?" Roxas asked.

"You can do one of the two things," Perez replied. "You can go to Congress and ask it to impose a tariff on imported cement. Or you can ask the President to impose it. But she can only do it only when Congress is not in session. When it is in session, the President cannot usurp its function and authority."

Congress is now in session, so that option is now out of the question.

* * *

As a further sign of surrender, Roxas has also agreed to order the Bureau of Customs to reimburse the P78 million paid by cement importers as provisional duty for cement imports.

Roxas had imposed a provisional duty of P20.60 per 40-kg bag of imported cement for 200 days, endorsing the petition of the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor), the dummy of the foreign cartel. Philcemcor is composed of the cement companies controlled by three of the world's biggest cement conglomerates: Lafarge of France, the world's biggest cement conglomerate; Cemex of Mexico, the largest international cement trader; and Holcim of Switzerland, second only to Lafarge as the global leader in cement production. The five remaining Filipino companies did not join the petition.

When the commission issued its decision last March 15, the Department of Trade and Industry was duty-bound to reimburse within 15 days the provisional tariff paid by the importers. But Roxas didn't want to let go of the money. He wanted to hold on to it, and continue to collect the provisional duty, for the full 200 days. Until former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile—author of the Safeguard Measures Act being used by Philcemcor to ask for protection—warned him that he risks being "dismissed from office and perpetually disqualified from public office" if he refuses to heed the Tariff Commission. That's probably what forced Roxas to agree to return the P78 million.

But Roxas has not surrendered completely. He is still insisting on continuing to collect the provisional duty for 200 days. And Philcemcor spokesperson Edcel Lagman is still trying to earn his keep by urging the government to hold on to the P78 million in collected safeguard revenues "pending a formal and final decision by the trade department on the Tariff Commission's recommendation not to impose tariffs on imported cement."

What *kalokohan*. The commission's decision is the final decision. The DTI cannot change it anymore. And what is the use of continuing to collect the provisional tariff only to reimburse it later, including interest?

* * *

As proof that the cement cartel is manipulating prices, the price of local cement has dropped to P102 per 40-kg bag although the imported cement is still being sold at P110 per bag. I think this is what the DTI should pay attention to. The cement importers are profiteering. With the removal of the tariff, the price of imported cement should drop by at least P20.60 per bag. And its landed cost is only from P60 to P80 per bag. So it should be sold to consumers at a maximum price of P90 to P100 per bag, giving the importer and retailer a P20 per bag profit.

As for local cement, its production cost is even lower. In fact, the cartel is exporting its products to the United States, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and other countries at a loss, to as low as P58 per bag. It is recouping its losses by raising the price of cement here to as much as P145 per bag. That is why it wants to limit and to impose a tariff on imported cement to eliminate competition.

Why is the cartel exporting its cement at a loss? To force the cement companies in other countries to lose money so it could buy them out—which is what it did here and in Brazil. (Lafarge has already offered to buy an Indonesian cement company but was refused.) The cartel wants to dominate the world's cement industry, much like what the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is doing to oil.

The irony is that the cartel does not have to ask for protection from competition if only it does not have world ambitions. It can always underprice imports if only it will not export its produce at a loss to force the competing cement companies to sell out. The freight cost will have to be added to the price of imported cement whereas local cement is already here. The cartel can sell its cement at under P100 per bag if it is not greedy.

No imported cement can compete here if the local cement companies don't overprice their product.

Ethics

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SAW Ted Failon on the ABS-CBN News Channel advertising his program, titled "The Good News." Media have been filled with too much bad news lately, he said, it's time a program proclaimed the good news about ourselves. That's what his program, which I understand has been running for a couple of months now, dedicates itself to.

Well, I myself have often said, not entirely jokingly, that if the definition of news is that it is something rare and uncommon, then media should now be playing up the good news. Failure is common, success is rare. "Good news," at least in this country, is by no means a contradiction in terms. The premise for Failon's show is not unreasonable.

But I don't know that its appearance in itself represents good news. Failon in fact is but the latest ex-ABS-CBN talent and current elective official to go back to doing TV. Before him there were Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda. De Castro is still at it, hosting "Magandang Gabi, Bayan," which still packs a lot of wallop with viewers. Legarda is no longer so, her program, which I think featured crime (and punishment) stories, having ended up a casualty early this year in the station's retrenchment program.

A non-ABS-CBN person but a very current elective official, Gregorio Honasan, also hosted a TV program in another station at one point last year. I don't know if it is still running, though the first time I saw it I thought it wouldn't last very long. Someone told me recently the networks are expecting public officials, elective and appointive, to be knocking loudly at their doors by the end of the year, next year being seen as open season for unofficial campaigning.

Frankly, I do not know why the journalist organizations, the Philippine Press Institute, the National Press Club and so on, have been silent on this. I do not know if it's the practice as well in other countries, such as India, which pioneered the exodus of entertainment personalities to politics, for people to go back to doing movies or hosting TV shows after they've been elected into office. But it violates the most basic rules of ethics. Or more importantly, the basic rules of good taste.

At the very least, it cheapens public office, particularly the office of senator, whence the culprits have come in bunches. Surely, there must be something wrong when a senator starts selling laundry soap on TV? It's enough to make Claro M. Recto, Jose Wright Diokno and Lorenzo Tañada turn in their graves. In their time at least, senators spent their time debating the relative merits of nationalizing the oil industry and not comparing the relative potencies of Brand X and Brand Y of a detergent.

You wonder, to begin with, how the job of a senator or congressman can leave them with time to do these things. Certainly, the fact that Failon is doing "The Good News" cannot be good news to his constituents in Tacloban, whom he is depriving of time best devoted to attending to their problems. If it constitutes good news, it is only in the sense that this country has added new meanings to John Locke's prescription for liberal democracy that "a government governs best that governs least." In this country, that means the less public officials are to be found in the office, the less they can be expected to mess things up. Or more pointedly, the less they can steal.

None of this is justified by the argument that the senators and congressmen who are making their exalted positions a day job, or worse a sideline, are not abandoning their duties, they are busy doing this and that. You criticize them in this respect, and unfailingly you get a reply from them enumerating the bills they have sponsored in Congress. That is not the point. The point is that being a congressman or senator is not just a job, it is a public trust. It is a job that requires fulltime devotion to duty. You are not prepared to do that, leave the field to those who are.

Even less is it is justified by the argument that the senators and congressmen are extending the possibilities of public service when they do TV programs. This is where I protest vehemently because it does nothing of the kind. It does not inform, it confuses. It does not enlighten, it befuddles. It does not serve, it sucks.

It is unethical in the extreme. It is about as ethical for public officials to host a TV program as it is ethical for judges to sit in judgment over a case involving their children or spouse. Even Hilario Davide may not do that. Public officials cannot be the object of scrutiny and the scrutinizer at the same time. Which they propose even when they tackle "safe" or "non-controversial" topics, such as "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" often does. It involves a fundamental conflict of interest, which should be avoided from the start.

Public officials want to entertain the public with their interpretation of the world, they should do it on Channel 4, the government channel. There at least the rules are clear. What we are listening to is a government point of view, not one masquerading as an impartial, neutral and objective revelation of truth.

In the end, it doesn't just cheapen the office of senator or congressman, it cheapens the profession of the journalist. It blurs all distinction altogether between a tainted source and a disinterested one. Of course, local journalism has its share of problems, and its own capacity to remain disinterested, or untainted, given all sorts of temptations, is suspect. But obviously the solution to that can't be to abandon all standards altogether, or to be more lax about them. It is to cling to them more tightly, and enforce them more rigorously.

It can't be to allow things to get worse. It can only be to act strenuously to make them better.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Sri Lanka rebel chief's comments tease, stir debate

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dayan Candappa

> 'If our people are satisfied with a framework of a solution…then we will consider giving up the demand for Eelam'

COLOMBO—Has the Tiger changed his stripes?

Sri Lankans were locked in an intense debate on Friday over whether Tamil Tiger guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had dug in on his demand for a separate minority Tamil state or hinted at a willingness to compromise.

The enigmatic Prabhakaran was tantalizingly ambivalent on Wednesday when his first news conference in more than a decade produced conciliatory comments and flashes of the fierce resolve that has made him Sri Lanka's most feared man.

"It was a very mixed bag, enough to raise hopes and fears at the same time," said Rohan Edirisinghe, a constitutional analyst at the University of Colombo.

But Edirisinghe and other analysts agreed that Prabhakaran's once cherished goal of a separate state called Eelam was now largely a negotiating position to be yielded in return for concessions at talks.

"It's a question of when, not if, he gives up Eelam. But how can he do that before talks have begun and he has nothing in return?" said Jehan Perera, media director of the National Peace Council.

Prabhakaran held out the hope of compromise on his demand for independence—the only truly intractable dispute confronting both sides as they prepare for Norwegian-brokered peace talks in Thailand next month.

"If our people are satisfied with a framework of a solution…then we will consider giving up the demand for Eelam," Prabhakaran said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe seized on the remarks, saying the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were now willing to settle for less than a separate state.

"This points toward hopefulness for a political solution in an undivided Sri Lanka," Wickremesinghe said.

The LTTE launched its bloody campaign for a separate state in the island's north and east in 1983. About 64,000 people have died in the fighting, one of the world's longest running conflicts.

Wickremesinghe has staked his career on the peace bid, and signed a truce with the rebels after sweeping to power in December promising to negotiate anything but Eelam.

But Wickremesinghe's detractors pounced on several hardline remarks which spooked the Sinhalese majority, most of whom view Prabhakaran as public enemy No. 1.

"The stripes of Tiger showed. A Tiger cannot change his stripes," said The Island newspaper.

Local media homed in on Prabhakaran's statement that he stood by a promise to be shot if he strayed from the path to Eelam.

"Please tell me how he can back down from a statement like that," said Tilak Karunaratne of the Sinhalese Heritage party.

It was not the first time the reclusive guerrilla chieftain had hinted that independence in the north and east was a last resort if the Tamil minority was not treated fairly.

"If racism continues to predominate as the determining force in Sri Lanka's politics, it would certainly create the objective conditions for the emergence of an independent Tamil state," Prabhakaran told rebel radio in November last year.

Analysts said Prabhakaran was also aware of the odds stacked against him after nearly two decades of fighting.

And diplomatic recognition seems completely out of reach, with even neutral Norway insisting it was only willing to broker a deal within the confines of the Sri Lankan state.

The Tigers, blamed for a string of suicide bomb attacks, are outlawed in half a dozen countries and a world changed by Sept. 11 is increasingly hostile to their global fund-raising network.

India, which once armed and trained the rebels, offering them the only real chance of breaking away, is now vehemently opposed to Eelam and wants Prabhakaran for the 1991 murder of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Reuters

Lessons in grammar

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IF you want to put editors and reporters in a bad mood, point out to them what you consider grammatical errors in their news reports or articles. Nothing can make the men and women of the Fourth Estate more passionate in defending their work than when they hear such criticisms.

The weekly report of the INQUIRER's consultant on grammar on mistakes in the use of the English language by the editorial staff always provokes vigorous discussion on the validity of his findings. Everybody is all ears when the report is read.

Earlier, I thought only lawyers were capable of debating an issue to the point of exhaustion. Now I know that journalists are equally adept in engaging in that activity if it involves the "grammatical integrity" of their products.

Last week, a reader, Ed Yap of Quezon City, did not mince his words when he complained about "Filipinisms" that have regularly intruded into the pages of the INQUIRER.

He wrote: "If your editors are too busy having espresso in a hotel lobby to notice these things, why don't you increase your copyreaders' salaries and tell them to be on the lookout for Filipinisms? I use that word not to disparage, but to describe the local habit of misusing certain words and substituting English spelling for Filipino words.

"For the second time in two months, I've seen you use 'pictorial' to refer to a photo shoot. (Refer to the article on Kamiseta's signing up of Alicia Silverstone as its signature model.) The noun 'pictorial' means a photographic spread or layout in a magazine or book, as in 'There's a wonderful pictorial on rock gardens in the House & Garden magazine.' The noun also refers to books and magazines in which pictures constitute a leading feature. Life magazine and most coffee-table books are pictorials.

Other Filipinisms

"While your copyreaders are at it, tell them to replace all the Tagalog eh's, ah's and huh's with the linguistically correct 'e, a and ha.' As in, '*akala ko makalulusot, e*' (not eh). '*Mali 'yan, a*' (not ah). '*Ikaw pala ang kumuha, ha*' (no huh). I know we live in a smaller world now but that is no reason to confuse foreign words and phrases.

"Let me point out that a few weeks back you used the phrase 'at the lobby of the Enterprise Center' which wouldn't have raised alarms with Filipinos but would grate on native speakers of English. The correct preposition to use with lobby is 'in,' as in 'your editors are too busy having espresso in the lobby.'

"While I am at it, and noting that the fiesta season will soon be upon us, let me warn you to be on the lookout for 'buntings,' another common Filipinism even among educated Pinoys. 'Bunting' refers to the entire collection of banners strung up to decorate town halls and streets during a fiesta. The plural, if you wish to use one, is banners."

The reader's letter reminded me of my stern English I teacher at the University of the Philippines. A sentence should be to the point and precise with the message you want to convey to your intended recipient.

As I do not have any pretentions about being an expert in the correct use of the King's English, I consulted the INQUIRER's publisher (whose journalistic experience dates back to The Manila Times of yore when it was still owned by the late newspaper mogul Chino Roces) on the points raised by the reader.

Correct usage

It turned out that all of the reader's observations are correct. The manner in which the words in question have been used have gained such a wide acceptance that a different usage is erroneously considered a breach of grammar rules.

Yes, the word "pictorial" is often confused with a "photo shoot." A pictorial is a page or spread of photos in a newspaper, magazine or book while a photo shoot is an occasion or activity when a photographer takes photographs for use in a pictorial.

The other examples of Filipinisms that have become part of Philippine print, radio and television media are "aggrupation," "oppositor" and "fiscalize." These words cannot be found in the dictionaries and yet they are widely used by columnists, broadcast journalists, congressmen, senators and other government officials.

Judging from the way these words have been used, "aggrupation" refers to a group of people with common ideas or plans, as in, aggrupation of disgruntled politicians; "oppositor" is somebody who is against or opposed to something somebody wants to do, like, the oppositors to Meralco's petition for a rate hike; "fiscalize" is the act of watching over the activities of another, as in, the opposition in the Senate will fiscalize the Macapagal administration.'

How these words came into wide usage in the Philippines, and only in the Philippines, in spite of the fact that they do not have any roots in the English language is a big puzzler. We can probably credit it to the uncanny ability of the Filipino to improvise whenever he is confronted with a situation he is unfamiliar with or unable to comprehend.

Noticeably, the long use of these Filipinisms has not earned them the right to be included in any of the reputable glossaries unlike, for example, the non-English words karma, kamikaze and hombre.

Preposition

Similarly, the reader's observation that the INQUIRER has improperly used the words "eh's, ah's and huh's" in its stories is correct. The right words are "e," "a" and "ha." The publisher promised to call the attention of the proofreaders to this point.

With regard to the preposition that should go with "the lobby," the publisher agrees that it should be "in the lobby" and not "at the lobby." The word "in" is used because the lobby is a place to which a person goes, like going inside a room.

Finally, on the issue of "bunting," that word should not have an "s" because it is a mass noun and already carries a plural meaning. If a writer wants to be more emphatic with his description of the decorations used in a fiesta, the word "banners" or "flags" can be used instead.

Whew! With readers like Ed Yap, the proofreaders of the INQUIRER will really have to go through the page proofs with a fine-tooth comb.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Human projects or divine acts?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir

> 'The right position is neither predestination nor free will, but a position that is between the two (*amr bain al-amrain*)'

A NEW friend invited me for a chat on current local and global events. Our free-flowing chat grew animated as I finished one cup of coffee after another.

Then, practically out of the blue our conversation led to a theme that vexed Muslim theologians or *mutakallimin* for centuries.

"Tell me," the fine lady asked, "is the American hegemony over the 21st century international community divinely predestined?"

"In a way, yes," I retorted.

The majority of *homo sapiens* inhabiting our planet believe in one Deity or another. Frequently, one hears someone remark that such and such an event happened because it is God's will. More often than not, such an assertion conveniently pass unchallenged. Even insurance companies refer to earthquakes, typhoons and other natural calamities as "acts of God."

Businessmen who cannot readily offer any excuse for sudden bankruptcy blame "God's will." For some, this facile explanation has become a matter of habit. For my part, I either avoid giving an air of profundity or I am too lazy to get involved in any lengthy discourse.

But, minutes later, my questioner wondered aloud whether members of the Abu Sayyaf, al-Qaida and other criminals were compelled by fate to commit abominations. This time, I answered in the negative. I told her we can never blame God for the transgressions of human criminals.

"You are inconsistent," she blurted.

I realized that a deeper discussion was in order—over more cups of my favorite black brew.

Is there really predestination? Or are men or women absolutely responsible for their actions?

In the Muslim tradition, this controversy began almost immediately after the death of The Prophet. This accounts for the existence of many *madhahib* (plural of *madh-hab*, Arabic for school of thought or sect).

More than a millennium ago, a group of Muslim theologians calling themselves Ash'aris advanced the theory that everything that happens is pre-ordained.

Another group called Mu'tazilis challenged this view and adopted the position that God gave human beings the freedom to act and are therefore responsible for everything they do.

In the end, the Ash'aris won as the four major sects in Islam formally adopted their fatalistic view, generically called "Sunnis." But that is going ahead of the story.

At the height of the Ash'ari vs. Mu'tazili debates, one leading scholar of the era who was known not only for his erudition and independence but also for his impartial adjudication was called upon to give his verdict. After presenting their case, both camps anxiously waited for the eminent scholar's opinion, with each camp expecting an imprimatur.

Despite the fact that Sayyid Ja'far ibn Muhammad also heads his own exclusive group of adherents, all others held him in awe and esteem. A great-great grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them), he was the heir par excellence of the latter's intellectual and spiritual legacy. His followers and others knew him as "Al-Imam al-Sadiq"—The Truthful Leader. His backing of one camp over the other could spell a difference.

To make the long story short, Al-Imam al-Sadiq ordered that a bird be produced. Holding the bird, he asked the audience, "If I squeeze this bird, who can be blamed for its death?"

The crowd roared in unison that the death of the bird would thereby be blamed on him. "Right," he interjected. "And if I open my hands and allow it to fly, to whom will its remaining alive be justly attributed?"

Everyone declared that only God can give life and preserve the same.

After a brief lull, the Imam gave his famous Ja'fari dictum, "The right position is neither predestination nor free will, but a position that is between the two (*amr bain al-amrain*)."

Many Mu'tazilites amended their position in accordance with Al-Sadiq's. The Ash'arites remained obstinate. Fortunately or unfortunately, their creed lived on in one of the cardinal principles of the four largest sects in Islam collectively known as Sunnis.

In the Philippines, the overwhelming majority of Muslims nominally belong to the Shafi'i school of thought. The sixth article of faith or dogma of this sect asserts that, "Qadr (Fate), whether good or bad is from Allah the most high." This belief is shared, at least formally, by almost a billion Muslims. In practice, however, a Sunni Muslim's level of education is usually inversely proportionate to his degree of fatalism.

Personally, I agree with Imam Ja'far's position between determinism and free will.

"God is so generous," the Imam declared, "that He does not make it a duty for men to do what is not in their power, but He is so powerful that nothing comes into being in His Kingdom which He does not will."

In another instance he said, "God loves His creation so much that He will not force it to commit sin and then punish it, and He is so powerful that whatever He commands comes to be."

This position—*al-amr bain al-amrain*—accounts for my seemingly inconsistent answer to my friend's query.

* * *

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com or datuamir@hotmail.com

Science versus Religion, the conference

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

ASTROPHYSICIST and Roman Catholic priest, Fr. William Stoeger, S.J., of the Vatican Observatory Research Group based in Castelgandolfo, Italy, and Tucson, Arizona, leads the lineup of speakers at the coming April 22 to 26 Science and Religion Conference sponsored by the East Asian Pastoral Institute at the Ateneo de Manila University.

His keynote address titled "Divine Action in a Broken World" sounds like a harmless Sunday homily, but I expect his experience as a practicing astronomer and a teacher of Einstein's general relativity to show. In fact I would not be surprised if the good father-professor were to give, say, a quantum mechanical plausibility argument for miracles, when God acting in history seems to suspend natural laws as we know them.

Now, the rhetorical theme of the conference, "Science and Religion: Friends or Foes in the Task of Integral Development" may be a softball pitch at a church social. For how can we be other than friends, how could we be foes, in such a task as integral development? Well, blessed are the peacemakers.

It's certainly a kinder and gentler Roman Catholic Church one encounters nowadays when that organized religion undertakes such things as conferences and dialogues with scientists instead of the burnings-at-the-stake of heretics, excommunications and book-banning that occasioned its more lethally dogmatic past. (Though such horrors have not happened for a long time, let it not be denied, they did happen.)

Credit goes to Pope John Paul II, who has put his money, or at least his imprimatur, where his mouth is. He has backed up with corrective action the astounding acts of papal apology for errors and crimes committed by the Church, past and present, which he undertook as part of the Church's year 2000 Jubilee celebrations.

Take the celebrated case of Galileo Galilei, the father of modern science. In 1633 he was excommunicated for teaching that the earth and planets revolve around the sun, contrary to long held belief, anchored on Biblical teaching, that the earth is the center of the universe. His book, "Discourse on the Two Chief World Systems," which made the case for a sun-centered solar system, was on the Catholic Index of banned reading material until the 19th century. In 1993, Pope John Paul II rehabilitated Galileo, erasing the excommunication from the Church that was wrought upon the famous scientist by Pope Urban VIII, reducing his ultimate crime from damnable heresy, to mere disobedience, after 360 years.

Well, better late than never, even if it is centuries late. But the lasting significance of *l' imbroglio* Galileo is this: His excommunication was a dramatic turning point in history. Because of it the Roman Catholic Church lost a quintessential credibility and the feud called Science versus Religion began in earnest its long and illustrious career on the stage of the modern mind. Galileo became science's first sainted martyr.

I think that certain aspects of organized religions and cults, for example, the ability of adherents to withhold disbelief, depends on having doctrines and articles of faith that cannot be easily or unequivocally proven to be false or naïve. But something like that is precisely what happened in the case of Galileo. He was excommunicated for teaching that the earth is not the center of the universe, but along with the other planets, orbits the sun, a fact any schoolchild today accepts with nary a twinge of biblical awareness that once, the Church bet the store against it and lost.

Recovering that lost credibility by re-engaging with science on its own terms seems to be happening now under Pope John Paul II and since Vatican II. Priests like Father Stoeger, who are real working scientists, may help to restore the great tradition within the Church of being a wellspring of scientific research and activity. In our own secular world and liberal age, it is easy to forget that for the longest stretch of history, most scientists were monks or clerics as only they had the time and freedom for scientific pursuits.

In any case, it was only her astronomy and cosmology that Galileo proved wrong, not the Church's moral convictions and teachings. Yet, it was a vast enough change. For after Galileo, the world went from an age of Religion to the era of Science. Which brings us back to the relevance of next week's conference for a country as enraptured by religion and so bereft of science as the Philippines.

On a broad range of issues, the tasks of integral development are affected as much by what divides as what unites the camps of science and religion. To name just a few flashpoints that the conference will tackle, there are the following: (1) Population growth and sustainable development with its emotional payload in the birth control problem. (2) Cultural and environmental issues in use of natural resources. (3) Biotechnology and its brave new world of design-engineered life forms that defy the old classifications of animal, vegetable, mineral and man. (4) Information technology and the tantalizing possibility of artificial life, artificial intelligence, the end, or the exultation, of creationist vanity.

The conference will feature keynote speeches in the morning followed by panel-led workshops and discussions in the afternoon. Interested parties may request registration information from the conference secretariat by e-mail at ryago@admu.edu.ph.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

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Teach the youth spirituality, not religion

A RECENT survey conducted by the Ateneo has determined that most Filipino children today have no knowledge of the traditional belief concerning "life after death."

That's the reason our leaders are inclined to make teaching religion in public schools compulsory. But that would be a wrong move. If religion has only resulted in wars—i.e. the war between Israelis and Palestinians which began 2,000 years ago over the rights to a "promised land" which was about the same time that Christianity was fragmenting itself into so many factions because of internal differences, not to mention the American war on "terrorism" which is an extension of that religious war—then, why should we continue to be ruled by it? Can that be decreed just so the state and church can control the people's thoughts and behavior?

Perhaps teaching the children spirituality will help humankind get rid of the age-old habit. Consider: Teaching religion has always meant giving the floor to the most dominant religion and leaving the other religions out in the cold, whereas teaching spirituality would not favor any particular religion simply because spirituality is a universal need that goes beyond cultural or religious preferences.

We will recall that the yearning for truth and the soul-searching that it entails have always motivated man even before religions started being organized by so many ancient cultures. It isn't farfetched to say that soul-searching went well in those days until religions came, setting up their elaborate platforms from which they competed for public attention to preach the ideas of truth, love, justice and happiness according to their own slanted knowledge.

But who can teach one better than the self? Indeed, where and how does truth, love, justice and happiness come if not from one's soul through the process of soul-searching?

What makes spirituality different from religiosity is this: The discoveries in the first are soul-fed, while those in the second are dictated by religious or cultural preferences. Thus, teaching religion at a time when many have seen the practice turning itself from a source of inspiration to a source of conflict can't possibly produce the benefits that leaders expect from it. For instance, how can ecumenism work if the religious differences continue to create the socio-political friction among communities and nations?

It's clear that we must now have the willingness to go beyond the symbols that religions created to set themselves apart from the others. Detachment will set our minds free to discover the truth from the soul. Only self-reliance and self-knowledge will help us in that direction.

And this we cannot deny: If we were aware of the petty maneuvers among religions which gave rise to the volatile atmosphere we see today, we would surely have immediately realized on our own volition that detaching ourselves from the involvement would do a lot to bring order back into our lives. The problem of course is that we have become so dependent on—and hypnotized by—the religious symbols to the point of becoming blind to the fact that dependence only weakens our spirit.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City

Retirement claims with a twist

AS early as March 2001, I requested the Social Security System for the manual verification of my unposted contributions in anticipation of my retirement.

SSS-Bacolod then assured me that six months thereafter, the posting of my 51 months of contributions under a single employer would be completed.

But because this job was not done during the six months as promised, I requested the assistance of the Civil Service Commission. This resulted in my request being acted upon swiftly.

When I finally filed my retirement claim in SSS-Sagay on March 6, 2002 at 65 years old, the SSS refused, however, to accept my application because the cut-off date (Aug. 10, 1996) that I declared, did not jibe with my last contribution payment for May 1999.

This distortion in my SSS record was due to the liberty taken by a previous employer of mine to conveniently use my SSS number without my knowledge and consent, to surreptitiously credit to my account the contribution payments of a son of mine whom he allowed to work with him even without an SSS number.

In answer to my request for the deletion of these unauthorized payments, SSS-Bacolod assured me that it would be done in three months' time. However, similar to its assurance that made me stretch my patience for six months for an earlier request for the posting of my contribution deficiency, the assurance given by the SSS to delete these wayward contributions stretched my patience well past the three months as promised.

I am aware that I stand to lose about P40,000 of my accrued retirement pension if I allow my retirement date to be deferred to May 1999. Precisely for this reason, I am urging the SSS to take a second, hard look at this problem of a wretched SSS retiree like me.

Now almost 66 years old and sickly, I am having a hard time scrounging for my daily meals and medicine.

—LORDESITO A. BERJA, Barangay A. Bonifacio, 6121 Cadiz City

Making Holy Week travel safe

I WISH to commend the authorities who made possible a very peaceful and orderly observance of Holy Week this year, especially in terms of travel to the provinces.

This is the first time in living memory that no major road accidents were recorded among travelers who wanted to spend their Holy Week in their home provinces, both in the North and in the South.

I remember that in years past, there was total disarray and commotion in most bus terminals as passengers fought one another to get their precious seats and reservations. After getting their seats, travelers were still anxious about what would happen on the road as accidents were a common occurrence.

By and large, major precautions were taken up this time, much to the satisfaction of the traveling public, all 2.5 million Metro Manila workers and residents who had to go to the provinces for the holidays.

I think credit should be given where credit is due. The Department of Transportation and Communication under Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez orchestrated the preparations for the Holy Week travel in coordination with the Philippine National Police and the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The program of Alvarez was no doubt instrumental in making travel during the long holidays safe on land, air and sea.

—CLARITA GULANES, 19 Maligaya St., Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Waste of SK elections

THE SANGGUNIANG Kabataan is bad for the youth and a waste of precious time, money and effort, considering that the election alone of the SK will cost the government around P1 billion.

It is the primary duty of the youth to learn the essentials of good living, not politics, graft and corruption which are X-rated and strictly for adults only. Not even parental guidance can justify its existence because that would create a situation wherein one group of parents and their children would be lined up against another group of parents and their children. Naturally the result would be trouble.

The SK should be abolished so that the youth can devote more time to study other more essential lessons without the interference or distraction from the SK. The parents can return to their homes and freely exercise their parental guidance and the government can save more money to be spent for the proper education of the youth.

—MEDARDO A. CASTRO, Suite 5, 2/F Market Square Bldg., J.M. Basa Street, Iloilo City

Congress records exist of Senator Arroyo's work

THE LETTER titled, "Senator Arroyo's non-existent written record" (PDI, 4/05/02) betrays how shallow certain persons assess the performance of public officials or worse, how they allow themselves to be used.

The letter writer has fabricated the standards by which a legislator should be judged, namely: (1) The number of bills or resolutions he has filed. This is meaningless because one can file a thousand bills and all of them will be automatically received, numbered and credited to the author by the Bills and Index Division but they amount to nothing unless they ripen or are enacted into law; (2) Privilege speeches delivered at the drop of a hat or an issue. Arroyo has truly desisted from exercising that privilege; and (3) Committee reports submitted. Arroyo's committee on public services has reported out six committee reports, four of which have been adopted by the Senate in plenary. As to the blue ribbon committee, Arroyo proceeds with deliberate caution. He cannot be stampeded into submitting a report unless he is sure of the facts because people's reputations are at stake.

Arroyo maintains that the blue ribbon committee cannot be the recourse of people with axes to grind. As to the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson on illegal drugs, the blue ribbon committee is the tertiary committee hearing the case, the lead committee being Sen. Robert Barbers' committee on public order and illegal drugs and the secondary committee being Sen. Ramon Magsaysay's committee on national defense.

John F. Kennedy's "Profiles of Courage" is a fascinating write-up of the greatest senators of the United States. Kennedy cites how each US senator he profiled stood on the great public issues of the day, how each debated and voted on the pivotal bills that had far-reaching impact on the American people (not the number of bills filed), their consistency and steadfastness on issues and principles, how they clashed and fought with formidable opponents and presidents, in the end how they won the verdict of history even if they lost the battle.

Arroyo has participated and took a stand on great public issues, To cite a few. In the House of Representatives he opposed the amendments to the Constitution during the Ramos and Estrada presidencies; the Bangko Sentral Act because it passed on to the people the obligation of paying the staggering Central Bank losses of P302 billion; for the same reason the Electric Power Bill because the Napocor and related losses amounting to at least P500 million will be paid for by the public; the hasty joining of the Philippines to the WTO; so with the GATT membership; the value added tax; the death penalty; the Visiting Forces Agreement although the House had no role; and the gargantuan intelligence funds in the annual budget every year.

In the Senate he actively participated in, among other things, the debate on the anti-money laundering law. He considered the anti-drug law a good bill but did not vote for it because both small and big-time offenders are subjected alike to the same death penalty.

Remember Pacifico Marcelo and his two infamous telecommunications bills which were passed by both houses but vetoed by the President? Arroyo did not vote for Marcelo's two franchise bills while in the House. He sensed there was something wrong with them. He was thus amused by the fuss and attention given to it in the Senate.

All these are scrolled in the journals and records of the Senate and the House for anyone who cares to see.

—ABIGAIL ANNE L. HINTO, staff, Office of Sen. Joker P. Arroyo

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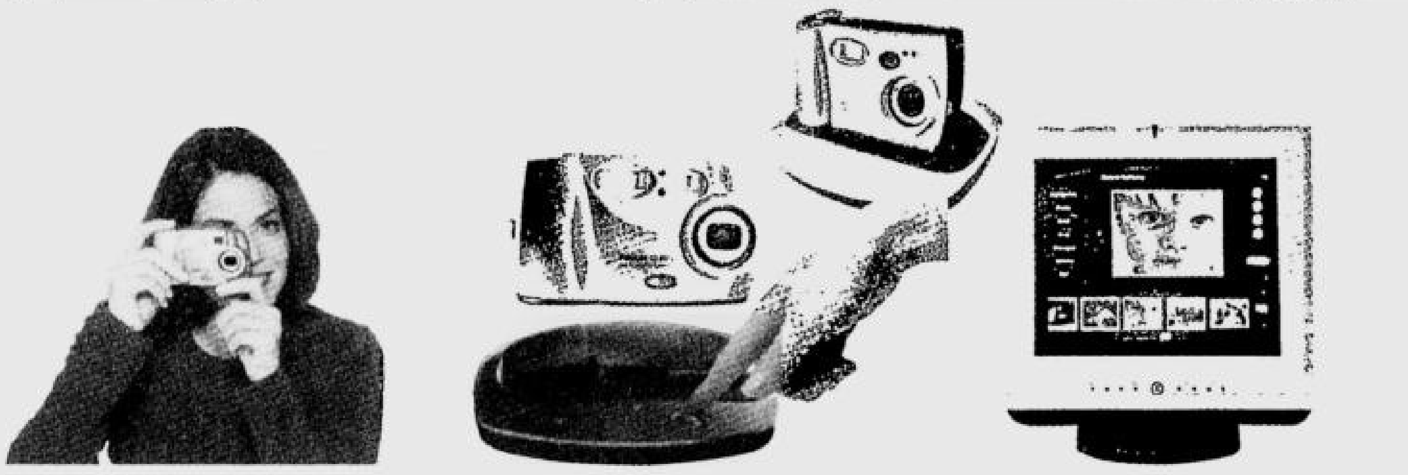

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Gusmao poised to become Timor president

XANANA Gusmao (right) and Francisco Xavier do Amaral, the two candidates for the presidency of East Timor, cast their ballots in Dili April 14. AFP

DILI, East Timor—Xanana Gusmao, the poet-warrior who led East Timor's bloody struggle for independence, was poised Sunday to become president of what will be the first nation of the third millennium.

The bearded former guerrilla commander is likely to step into the presidency after hundreds of thousands of East Timorese cast their votes in the territory's first ever presidential election.

Gusmao, 55, voted side by side with his sole rival for the presidency, Francisco Xavier do Amaral, who he is expected to far outrun in the final count.

Upon independence, when the clock ticks over from midnight into May 20, the man who has expressed more enthusiasm for growing pumpkins and photography is expected to take over as head of state of the world's newest nation.

Gusmao endured jungle life and imprisonment in an Indonesian jail to lead his people to freedom, but was a reluctant presidential candidate.

His pleas to stay out of politics fell on deaf ears. East Timorese said there was simply no one else.

But despite the independence hero's vast popularity, the road ahead as president will not be easy, according to observers.

Friction with Fretilin, the veteran pro-independence party to which Gusmao once belonged and which now dominates the government and parliament, is well-known.

Gusmao has accused "elements" of the party of urging people to vote against him by spoiling their ballot papers.

A key source of tensions is Gusmao's advocacy of amnesties for East Timorese involved in the orgy of violence, destruction and forced deportations in the months surrounding the 1999 UN-run ballot on independence. *AFP*

Eritrea accepts ruling on border with Ethiopia

NAIROBI—Eritrea announced Sunday that it had accepted an international ruling on its border with Ethiopia—over which it fought a devastating war—as "final and binding."

Under a December 2000 peace accord both sides pledged to accept the border ruling by the panel in The Hague as "final and binding," and therefore "the question of acceptance of the decision is superfluous," Eritrea's ruling party said.

"The ruling is a victory for the people of Ethiopia, but it is the Eritrean people who have emerged most victorious," the ruling Popular Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) said on its website (www.shaebia.org).

"In the final analysis, the end of the war on the basis of a legal determination is a victory for both the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples," the statement said.

The ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission, which has not been published, was handed over to the two governments on Saturday.

Ethiopia immediately claimed that all the disputed border areas—Badme and its surroundings, Zala Anbesa, Aiga, Alitena and the district of Irob—are and will remain "Ethiopian sovereign territories."

The areas were the scenes of some of the fiercest fighting in the war that began in May 1998, claiming tens of thousands of young soldiers' lives before a ceasefire in June 2000. *AFP*

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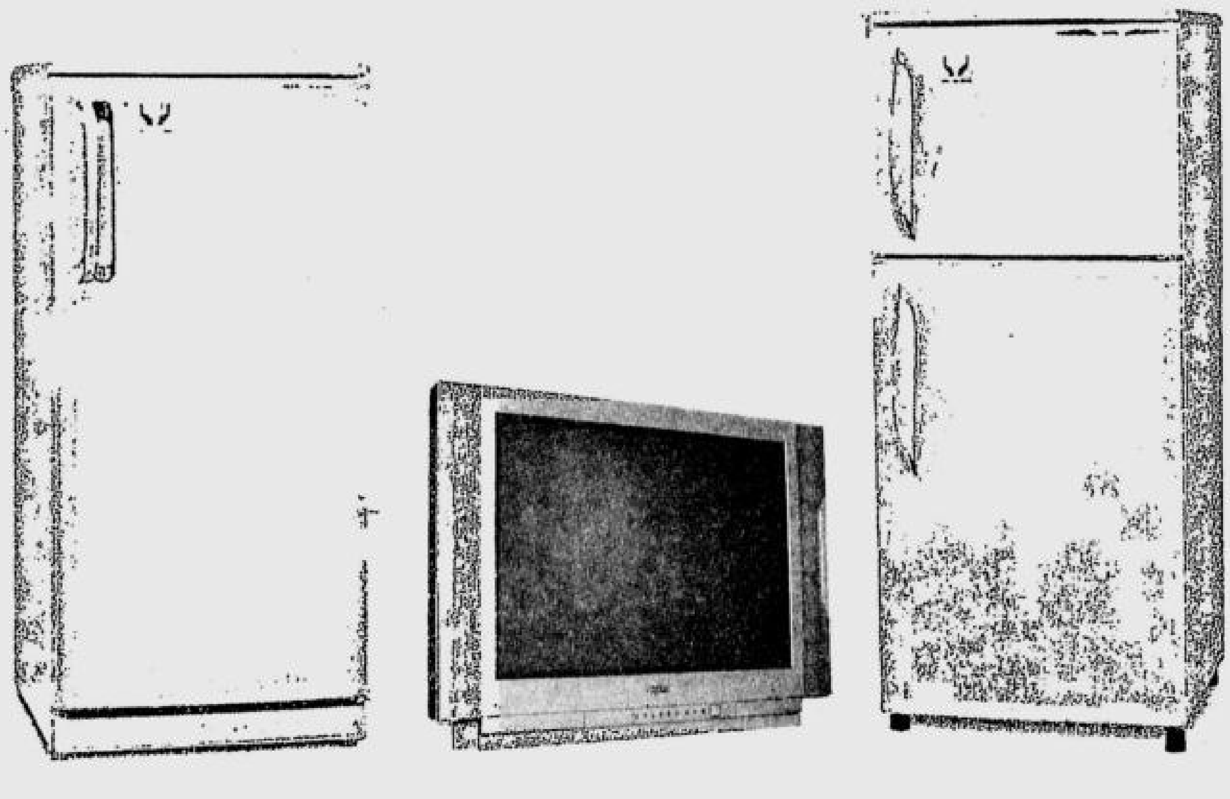

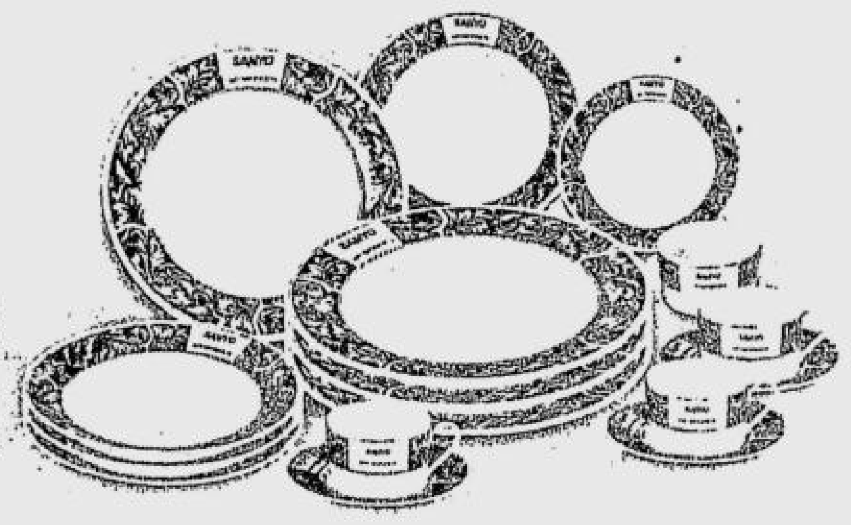

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Turf battle rages near Kabul

AFGHAN farmers in Jalalabad try to harvest their poppies April 14 before they are destroyed under a government program banning all opium-producing crops. AFP

KHOJA KOTKAI, Afghanistan—Tank fire boomed through a barren valley Saturday as a turf battle raged for a second day just west of the Afghan capital. In Kabul itself, peacekeepers traded fire with gunmen, and in the south a rocket just missed the offices of the Kandahar governor.

The unrest came only days before Afghanistan's deposed monarch was due to return from exile to help lead the devastated nation toward peace after 23 years of war. An Italian Foreign Ministry official said the former king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, was due back "in the middle of the week."

The fighting in Khoja Kotkai, 48 km west of Kabul, pitted two ethnic Pashtun commanders against each other for control of a valley in Wardak province.

Officials of interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai's administration, which took power in December after northern alliance troops and US bombs ousted the Taliban, played down the skirmish.

"It's impossible in three to four months that everybody joins hands to sing a nice song," said Tourism Minister Zalmay Rassoul, whose predecessor, Abdul Rahman, was beaten to death in broad daylight at Kabul airport Feb. 14.

Civilians seemed completely unworried by the fighting. A steady stream of buses, trucks and taxis packed with people continued to flow across the dirt road through the valley—the main highway between Kabul and Kandahar.

In the capital, about 30 gunmen fired AK-47 assault rifles at a British contingent of international peacekeepers Friday night, sparking a firefight, said Lt. Col. Neal Peckham, spokesperson for the force. No one was injured.

Peacekeepers said 30 armed men fled, but that seven of them were later arrested. Of the seven, five were wearing Afghan police uniforms, one was in combat fatigues and one was in civilian dress.

All were handed over to the interim government.

In the southern city of Kandahar late Friday night, a rocket missed the office of Gov. Gul Agha, exploding on the grounds of a nearby mosque, said Pashtoon, a local police official who uses only one name. No one was hurt.

A group of US special forces members are staying in the governor's office compound. A team of US Army reservists involved in humanitarian projects is also working out of the complex.

Afghan police said they detained several suspects for questioning.

Attacks on international peacekeepers and the interim government have been occurring frequently. In the last week, two Chinese-made rockets were fired at a peacekeeper's compound, and the defense minister was targeted in a bombing in southern Afghanistan that killed five people and injured more than 50. **AP**

Tunisia synagogue explosion kills 15

BERLIN—Two more Germans died Sunday of injuries suffered when a natural gas tanker crashed and exploded outside an historic synagogue in Tunisia, bringing the death toll from the incident to 15, medical sources said.

One woman died overnight in a Hamburg clinic from burns suffered when the truck crashed into a wall outside the synagogue on the resort island of Djerba and exploded into flames just as a group of German tourists visited the site.

A second woman died early Sunday in a Berlin hospital, hospital spokesman Dirk Richter said.

Earlier eight other German tourists, a Frenchman, two maintenance workers, the driver of the tanker truck and a French-Tunisian tour guide died.

Tunisian authorities have said the crash and blast were an accident, but German Interior Minister Otto Schily said Saturday it was probably an anti-Jewish attack.

He said on television he believed the attack was "aimed at the synagogue and not at the tourists."

Schily said that he did not have any information on the perpetrators but was in permanent contact with the German federal police investigation agency the BKA.

Two BKA special investigators traveled to Djerba Friday to assist the inquiry.

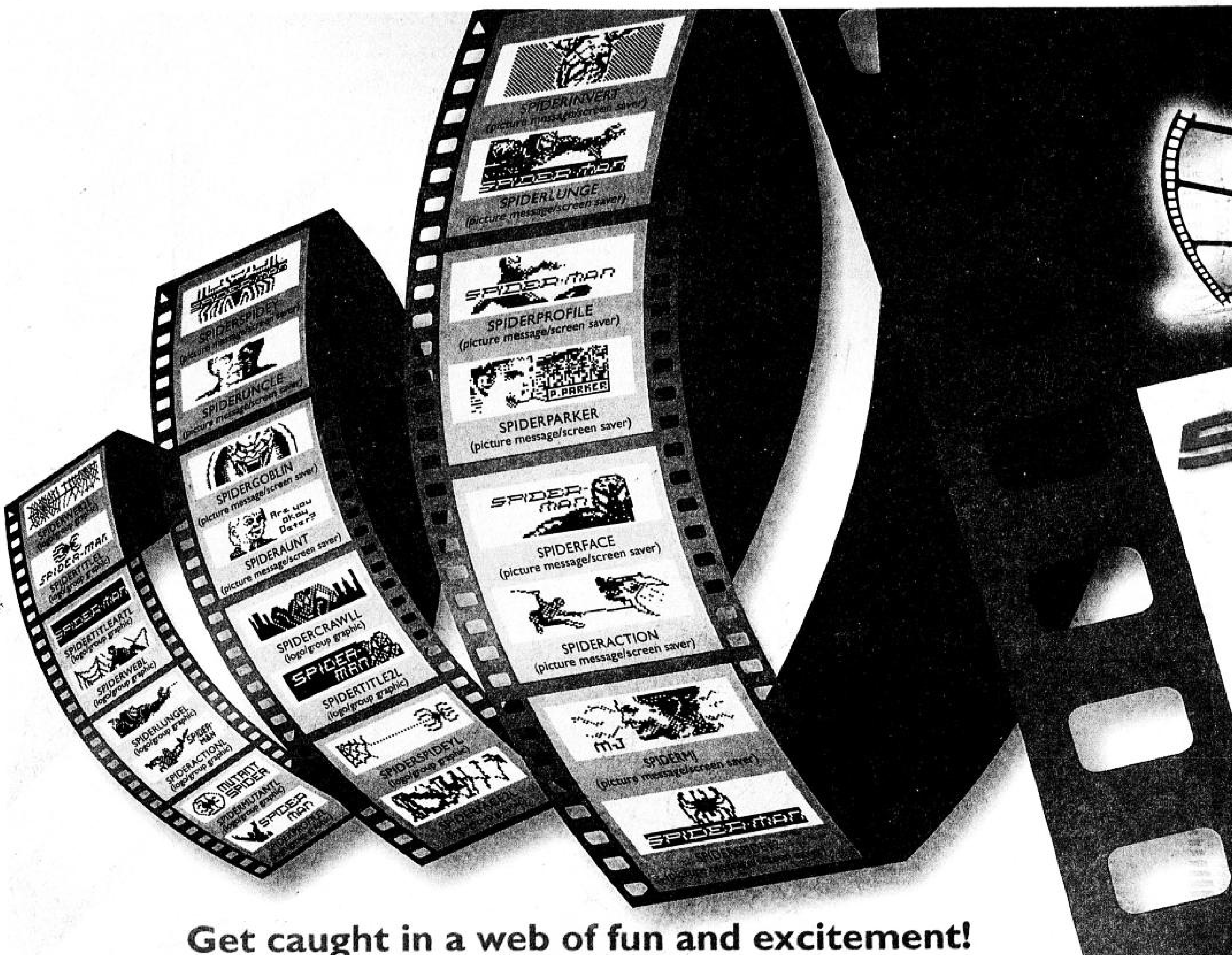
Israeli officials have also described the blast as a terrorist attack.

The incident came amid a rash of attacks on synagogues around the world in apparent retaliation for Israel's military offensive against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The German tourists had been visiting the site on the resort island of Djerba, 500 km south of Tunis.

Several residents of Djerba, where many of Tunisia's Jews live, said they considered the blast was an accident, and leaders of the local Jewish community have said the same.

The German magazine Focus reported that a Tunisian Islamic organization, Al-Nahda, had claimed responsibility for the blast, but this allegation was swiftly denied by the moderate opposition movement. **AFP**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BENGALI NEW YEAR Bangladeshis holding masks and cutouts of different animals dance to mark the first day of the Bengali New Year in Dhaka April 14. Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bengali New Year, this year 1409, dawns on the nation with high hopes and aspirations and calls for moving ahead burying all frustrations and failures.

AFP

Iraq attack warning spurs Britain to order vaccine

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair ordered 16 million doses of the smallpox vaccine after US Vice President Dick Cheney warned that Iraq could counter military action with a biological terror onslaught on Britain, The Sunday Telegraph said.

The two leaders met at Downing Street on March 12 and exchanged intelligence about the possible threat from Iraq.

Cheney told Blair that intelligence experts had warned that the US and Britain would be the two main targets of biological warfare in the event of a conflict, the paper said.

US reports, according to the paper, suggested that Saddam Hussein would use all the weapons at his disposal if he was attacked.

Unlike the Gulf War, where he showed some restraint, this time he would know that the military action is intended to end in his death or capture, it added.

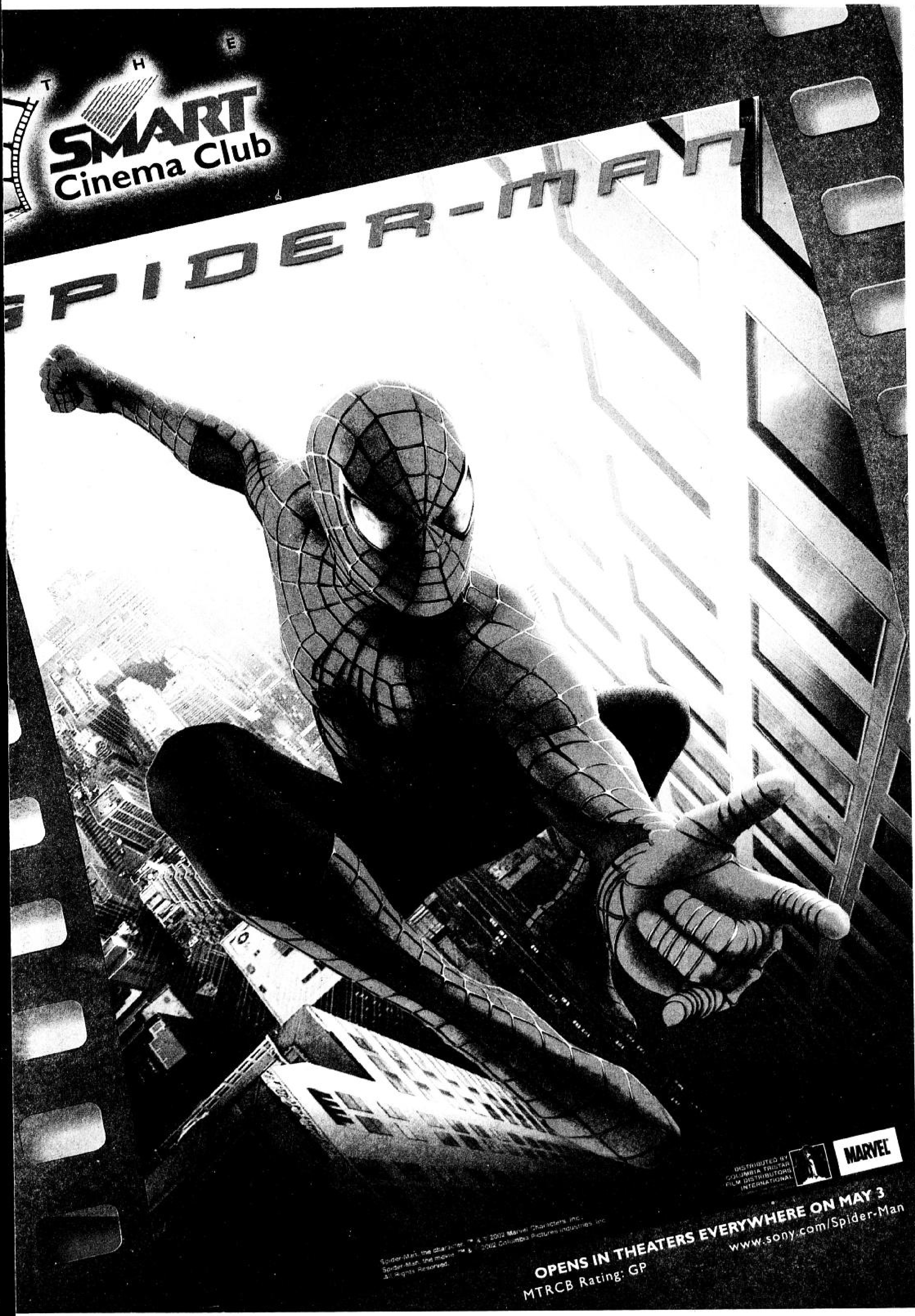
Two days after Cheney and Blair met, six government health ministers, including Health Secretary Alan Milburn, met in London and decided to order inoculations against smallpox.

The Sunday Telegraph said that in the event of a war being launched against the West, Iraqi special agents will attempt to smuggle smallpox into Britain and release it in confined spaces such as the Tube (underground system) or cinemas.

The worst case would be suicide terrorists infected with smallpox, the paper added.

Earlier this year US scientists projected how smallpox infections would spread after a single terrorist strike, according to the paper.

They found that an attack on a train on April 1 would result in 15,000 cases of smallpox, including 2,000 deaths, by June. The disease would also spread to four foreign countries, they calculated. *AFP*



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German president to atone for Nazi massacre

BERLIN—Nearly 60 years after Nazi elite SS troops massacred hundreds of civilians in a cluster of Italian villages, Germany's president plans to commemorate the victims in a long-delayed act of reconciliation.

President Johannes Rau's gesture next week coincides with new attempts by prosecutors and journalists to track down Nazi troops who committed atrocities in Italy, some of whom are believed to be still alive in Germany.

Rau will be the first postwar German leader to visit Marzabotto, one of several mountain villages southwest of Bologna where members of an SS division killed more than 700 people, including women and children, on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 1944, while allegedly pursuing resistance fighters.

Accompanied by Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Rau on Wednesday is to lay a wreath and give a speech appealing for reconciliation in the face of a World War II massacre that remains a symbol of Nazi atrocities in then-occupied Italy. Some survivors are expected to be present for the ceremony.

"This is about our common future, but also our common past," Rau's spokesperson Klaus Schrotthofer said Friday. "The fact that both presidents can personally recall that era adds to the event's authenticity."

Rau's visit and his speech in front of the village church where the Nazis shot some of their victims lends a special significance to what would otherwise be a routine four-day visit by a man who has little political power but is often viewed as the representative of Germany's conscience.

Rau, 71, has long taken a personal interest in the Marzabotto massacre, and the idea of a visit developed over time as both sides planned his itinerary, Schrotthofer said.

While some leaders of the SS division were convicted after the war in Italy for the Marzabotto killings, investigations of lower-ranking soldiers by German and Italian prosecutors soon languished. *AP*

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Bill allows strike, but not over pay

DAVAO CITY—Government workers may go on strike for unfair labor practice, mismanagement, abuse and graft and corruption, but not on the issue of wages.

This was a proposed provision under the new Civil Service Code, now pending approval by Congress. In previous hearings, Congress frowned on the proposal.

Civil Service Commissioner Karina David said this would be a breakthrough for government workers if approved.

But it would not be easy for workers to take on an issue.

"You have to go through a long and tedious process. If you take the shortcut you will be dismissed," David told reporters here on Monday.

As a first step, David said, workers must have to exhaust all administrative remedies.

After exhausting all remedies and nothing happens, the workers' next step is to file a Notice of Dispute before the Civil Service Commssion. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Shift to parliamentary gov't ploy to make De Venecia PM, says solon

By Malou Guanzon-Apalisok
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The move to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly is a ploy to get Speaker Jose de Venecia elected as prime minister, a congressman has said.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco said De Venecia favors a parliamentary system of government through direct amendments because the Speaker "can't get himself elected under a presidential form of government."

He added that House leaders trying to push for Charter changes through Congress sitting as a constituent assembly were being motivated by "selfish" interests.

Through a constituent assembly, the House and Senate merge into one body to propose and approve amendments to the Constitution.

Cuenco said should there be any amendment to the Constitution, it should be done by a constitutional convention.

DE VENECIA

CUENCO

He has filed a concurrent resolution, requiring a similar measure at the Senate, calling for con-con elections on July 15 to coincide with the barangay elections.

He said holding the election of con-con delegates on July 15 will enable the government to save funds.

Other details, such as how many delegates will be elected or how many delegates would represent each of the country's regions would be embodied in a law to be enacted by Congress, Cuenco said in House Resolution No. 10.

Cuenco said the resolution would address the "prevalent mood" for Charter change. But he said Congress itself could not make the amendments because "its motives are highly suspect."

He also said that "graduating" congressmen or those who are on their third and last term are aiming to lift the cap on term limits like House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez.

He brushed aside criticisms that a constitutional convention would entail huge expense, saying that "it will still be a minuscule amount because this is priority."

He said the persons who will effect Charter change should be elected because he believed that the people would "surely reject any amendments to the Charter if Congress will carry it out."

Cuenco said that among the Charter changes he would propose would be the election of senators by region, the return of the two party system and placing the power to fire and hire policemen under the control of local officials.

He also favors land ownership by foreigners. "We are the only country that prohibits land ownership by foreigners on the mistaken notion (that we would lose our patrimony if this happens.)"

The move for Charter change has apparently started among House members as early as February.

In a House newsletter called "The Visayas Caucus," dated Feb. 11, 2002, Gonzalez wrote an article titled "Charter change drive snowballing."

Gonzalez, in his article, pointed to "glaring flaws in the 1987 Constitution that need to be revisited and everyone is aware of the urgency to commence the proceeding soon."

Gonzalez said he proposed to clip the powers of the Supreme Court in matters that pertain to laws enacted by Congress.

He noted that a simple majority of Supreme Court justices sitting in a quorum could declare a law unconstitutional.

"In a full-house attendance of 15 justices sitting en banc, the majority is eight. If only seven justices participated in the deliberations, the majority is four and this is not far from happening," he said.

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GMA son backs Palace transfer to Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo on Thursday endorsed the proposal of House Deputy Majority Floor Leader Juan Pablo Bondoc to transfer Malacañang, Senate, House of Representatives and other national government offices in an area in this 34,000-hectare economic zone.

Arroyo, eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Bondoc's plan of making Clark a "Government City" would "boost the economic development" of Clark and Central and Northern Luzon.

Clark, located in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is 60 km north of Metro Manila, the country's seat of political power.

In 1991, the Aquino administration converted Clark from an American military air base into an industrial haven, with the airport as its major facility. The move came after the Senate under then Senate President Jovito Salonga rejected a treaty that would have extended the use by the US military of Clark and Subic as bases.

Clark's main zone covers 4,440 hectares. The sub-zone, mainly devoted to agricultural and tourism businesses, covers 29,330 hectares.

"Definitely, we will back it up. Right now, it's something worth studying and it's something that's very encouraging," Arroyo told reporters.

Bondoc, who represents Pampanga's fourth district in the House of Representatives, is set to file the bill on the relocation plan when Congress resumes its sessions today.

The 25-member Central Luzon Congressional Bloc, led by Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, has also endorsed Bondoc's draft bill.

Bondoc, citing Clark's big land area, described the zone as the "most ideal site for a centralized system of government."

Efficiency in public service and easy access of the public to government offices are at the core of Bondoc's proposal.

According to him, transferring all government offices under one complex was necessary because the scattered locations of national government offices was "seriously affecting the flow of governance in our country." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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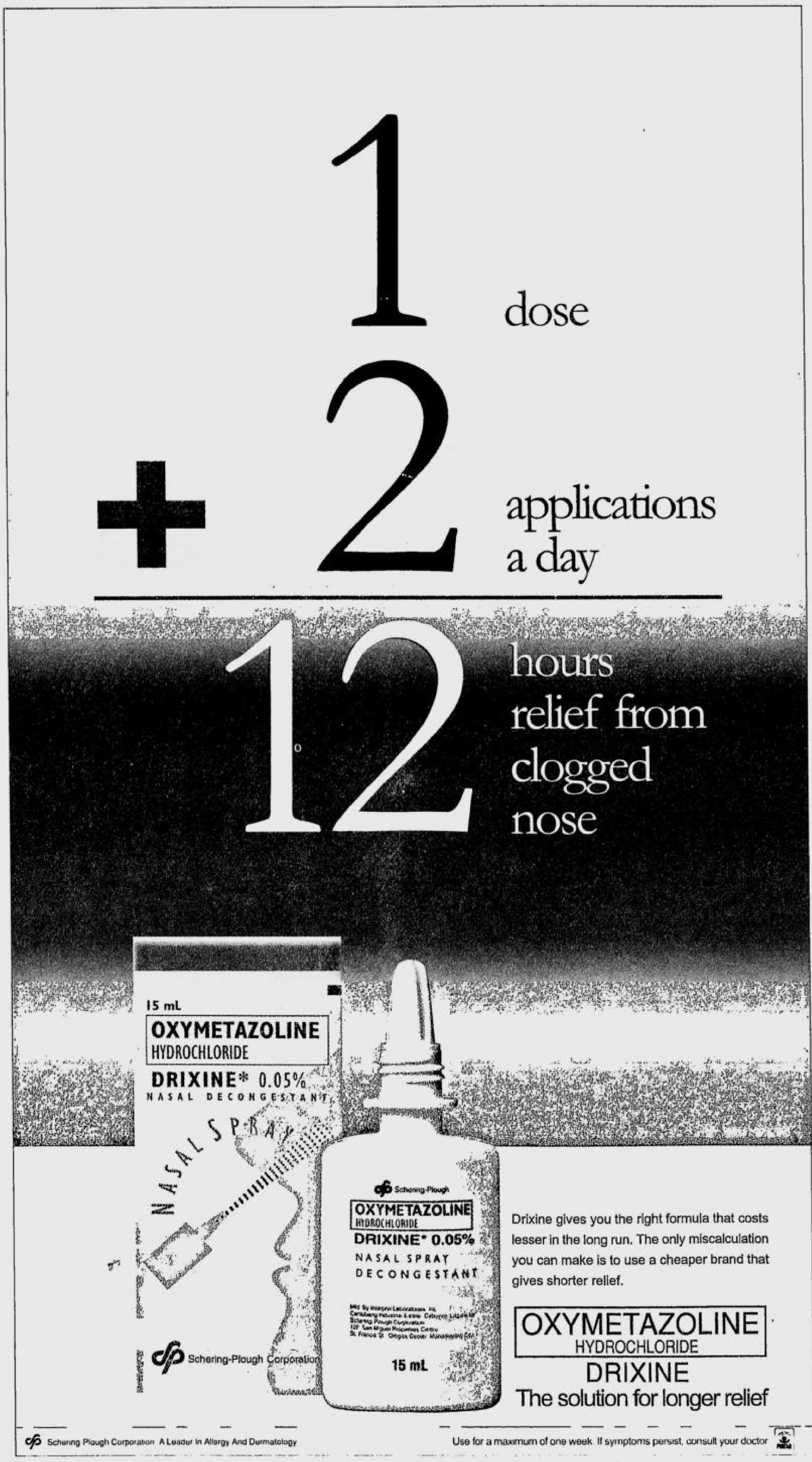
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Cops nab, charge 3 MNLF members with extortion

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Three alleged members of the Moro National Liberation Front were arrested on suspicion that they were involved in an extortion racket victimizing businessmen here.

Elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Anwar Bandala alias Roy, Abdul Tahir Dalia and Toting Dalia during a dawn raid here on Wednesday.

Bandala, a nephew of Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, and the Dalia brothers are reportedly MNLF members operating in Palembang under a certain Commander Ronie Piang.

The suspects were resting inside the Constar Lodge along Pioneers Avenue here when lawmen swooped on them.

The raiding team confiscated a hand grenade from Bandala.

City Councilor Boyet Leyson III, chair of the council's peace and order committee, later told reporters that CIDG operatives have placed the three suspects under surveillance for more than a week before the raid.

But during an interview with reporters, the three suspects denied involvement in any extortion try.

They said they were in the city to transact business with the Equitable PCIBank.

Bandala also disowned the grenade saying lawmen planted it to justify the arrests.

As this developed, police have filed robbery charges against two suspected extortionists who were arrested in Tupi, South Cotabato, on Tuesday.

Valentin Manansala and Teddy Bactong, all residents of Purok 9, Poblacion Tupi were arrested while receiving marked money from Salvador Fresco, a businessman based in Koronadal City.

Police launched the entrapment operation after Fresco, a brother-in-law of Manansala, reported that he had received two extortion letters from a certain Commander Jack of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The extortion letters demanding P15,000 were delivered to Fresco's warehouse in Koronadal on April 7 and 8.

The extortionists warned in their letters that they would harm Fresco's children and burn the victim's warehouse, cargo trucks and service vehicles if he fails to meet the demand. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Caught in the shadow of war, an Army soldier treads on deadly ground as he and other soldiers continue the hunt for Abu Sayyaf bandits in the jungles of Basilan.

Cebu, Negros gov'ts stop 4-day workweek

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY–Working hours at the provincial governments of Cebu and Negros Occidental returned to normal after local officials found the four-day workweek to be impractical.

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia and Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon lifted the implementation of the four-day workweek after consulting with department heads and employees.

Both provincial governments implemented the four-day workweek last week in compliance with an administrative order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The scheme was aimed at promoting domestic tourism.

Provincial employees were divided in two batches. The first batch was to report for work from Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The second batch worked from Tuesday to Friday with the same working hours.

Garcia said he ordered the return of the original working scheme after 95 percent of the department heads expressed opposition to the four-day work scheme.

He said his decision was also bolstered by the clarification of the Department of Interior and Local Government that the new working scheme was optional.

Capitol officials in Cebu noted that during the first day of implementation last April 1, employees could not work immediately because they had to wait for the flag raising ceremony, which is regularly held 8 a.m. on Mondays.

Capitol officials also noticed that the employees were already tired after 5 p.m. They also noted that people did not transact business at the Capitol beyond 5 p.m.

Port in Davao, 6 others tagged in smuggling

DAVAO CITY—The Sasa wharf here was identified by a Malacañang-created task force on smuggling as one of the seven ports in the country that serves as entry points for contraband.

With the findings, the task force, which included businessmen, urged the Bureau of Customs to focus its resources on these seven ports to prevent the entry of smuggled goods in the country.

Meneleo Carlos, task force chair, said that smuggling continues to be one of the most serious concerns of businessmen because they pose unfair competition to legitimate businesses.

Police and customs officials have admitted the entry of smuggled goods here based on recent confiscation of commodities such as used clothes, rice, cement, petrochemical products, and cars and accessories.

Aside from the Sasa wharf, the task force also identified ports in Subic, Manila, Cebu, Batangas, La Union, and Zamboanga as entry points for smuggled goods.

Carlos said the government needed to immediately stop smuggling.

He said concentrating the customs bureau's resources on the seven major ports could curb smuggling.

Aside from helping businesses, Carlos said clamping down on smuggling would help boost government revenue. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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PNP 'CORRECTION'

Cordillera grows 70% of RP marijuana

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A top police official in the Cordillera said the region has not yet eclipsed Colombia's dominance in the world drug trade "and (it) never will."

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, revealed this Thursday to correct a series of reports describing the Cordillera as the principal source of the world's marijuana market.

Aliño told the INQUIRER that the Cordillera's output accounts for 70 percent of the country's illegal drug trade, and not what the Philippine drug syndicates export to the international drug networks.

Aliño aired this correction after four national newspapers reported about the Cordillera's supposed stature in the international illegal drug market. The report was supposedly revealed in an anti-illegal drug workshop attended by Director Efren Fernandez of the Philippine National Police's Narcotics Command.

Fernandez conducted an anti-drug summit for the police offices of the Cordillera, Ilocos and Cagayan Valley on Monday at Camp Dangwa, Benguet, where he dissected the region's marijuana crisis.

"How can the Cordillera produce that much marijuana? The region represents a (minute) portion of the world's marijuana. That report should have made (newspaper editors) realize the impossibility of (that data)," Aliño said.

Aliño aired the same corrections over a Baguio radio broadcast on the same day, where he stressed that Fernandez was "misquoted."

Aliño said Fernandez's report only discussed how marijuana from the Cordillera is shipped out of the mountains of Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province.

But Aliño said Fernandez and the summit participants managed to resolve a new plan of attack involving joint surveillance and operations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He said Army soldiers stationed between the mountains of the Cordillera, Ilocos Sur and Cagayan Valley often encounter marijuana plantations.

"But since this is not their jurisdiction, they note it down and pass it to us after they finish their tour. But if they can be (deputized) to uproot the marijuana themselves, it would be a great advantage, before the enemy uproots it for themselves," Aliño explained during his radio interview over at RPN-9 dzBS.

He said a letter-request had already been transmitted to the AFP commander stationed in La Union to facilitate talks about this "new strategy."

Aliño said the upsurge in the region's marijuana production was balanced off by the reduction in the sale here of shabu.

But a radical approach to marijuana eradication will soon take its toll on marijuana farmers, he said.

"We can increase our eradication (cycles) to 10 times a year," he said.

"These marijuana farmers already know the score. They don't plant in one plantation, they spread their fields out in parcels, so when a particular marijuana site is discovered by authorities, they can still salvage the other fields," Aliño said.

He said police never managed to arrest marijuana farmers, because they rarely tend to them.

"Besides, to catch them, they must be caught carrying marijuana, otherwise we won't make the charges stick," he explained. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

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Overall Width	mm	1,750	1,695
Overall Height	mm	1,990	1,965
Wheelbase	mm	2,385	2,200
BODY LENGTH	ft	9.6	8
Curb Weight	kg	1,530	1,340
Chassis Payload	kg	1,220	1,140
Gross Vehicle Weight	kg	2,750	2,205
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Type		4-in line, diesel	4-in line, diesel
DISPLACEMENT		2,665	2,477
Max. Power	ps/rpm	83 / 4,150	72.1 / 4,200
Max. Torque	kgm/rpm	17.5 / 2,400	15 / 2,000
OTHER FEATURES			
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Radio		Standard	-
REAR BODY		Factory-built	Contractor
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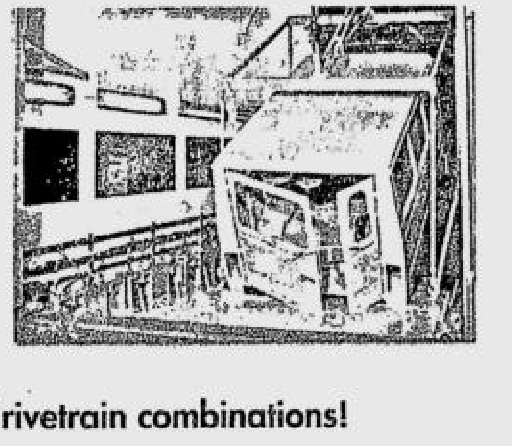

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PNP 'CORRECTION'

Cordillera grows 70% of RP marijuana

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A top police official in the Cordillera said the region has not yet eclipsed Colombia's dominance in the world drug trade "and (it) never will."

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, revealed this Thursday to correct a series of reports describing the Cordillera as the principal source of the world's marijuana market.

Aliño told the INQUIRER that the Cordillera's output accounts for 70 percent of the country's illegal drug trade, and not what the Philippine drug syndicates export to the international drug networks.

Aliño aired this correction after four national newspapers reported about the Cordillera's supposed stature in the international illegal drug market. The report was supposedly revealed in an anti-illegal drug workshop attended by Director Efren Fernandez of the Philippine National Police's Narcotics Command.

Fernandez conducted an anti-drug summit for the police offices of the Cordillera, Ilocos and Cagayan Valley on Monday at Camp Dangwa, Benguet, where he dissected the region's marijuana crisis.

"How can the Cordillera produce that much marijuana? The region represents a (minute) portion of the world's marijuana. That report should have made (newspaper editors) realize the impossibility of (that data)," Aliño said.

Aliño aired the same corrections over a Baguio radio broadcast on the same day, where he stressed that Fernandez was "misquoted."

Aliño said Fernandez's report only discussed how marijuana from the Cordillera is shipped out of the mountains of Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province.

But Aliño said Fernandez and the summit participants managed to resolve a new plan of attack involving joint surveillance and operations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He said Army soldiers stationed between the mountains of the Cordillera, Ilocos Sur and Cagayan Valley often encounter marijuana plantations.

"But since this is not their jurisdiction, they note it down and pass it to us after they finish their tour. But if they can be (deputized) to uproot the marijuana themselves, it would be a great advantage, before the enemy uproots it for themselves," Aliño explained during his radio interview over at RPN-9 dzBS.

He said a letter-request had already been transmitted to the AFP commander stationed in La Union to facilitate talks about this "new strategy."

Aliño said the upsurge in the region's marijuana production was balanced off by the reduction in the sale here of shabu.

But a radical approach to marijuana eradication will soon take its toll on marijuana farmers, he said.

"We can increase our eradication (cycles) to 10 times a year," he said.

"These marijuana farmers already know the score. They don't plant in one plantation, they spread their fields out in parcels, so when a particular marijuana site is discovered by authorities, they can still salvage the other fields," Aliño said.

He said police never managed to arrest marijuana farmers, because they rarely tend to them.

"Besides, to catch them, they must be caught carrying marijuana, otherwise we won't make the charges stick," he explained. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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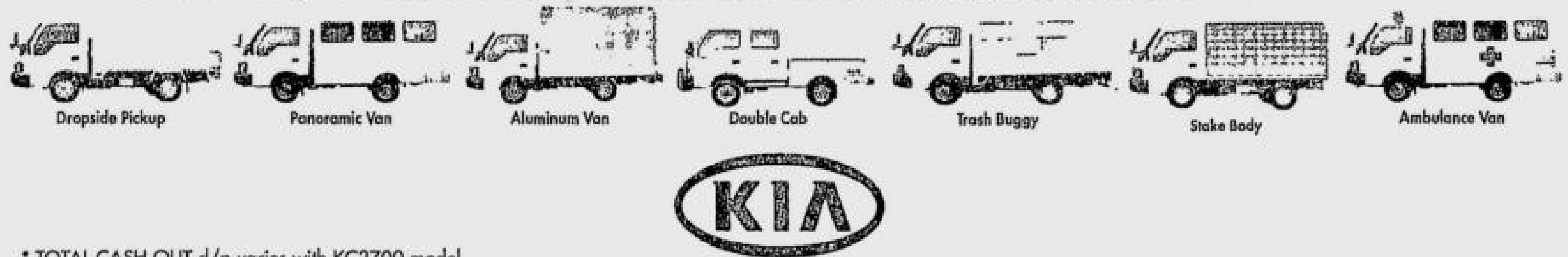

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EU allots 60M euros for RP, Mindanao projects

DAVAO CITY—The European Commission has allocated some 60 million euros (P2.7billion) for the Philippines, particularly Mindanao, from 2002 to 2006 under the European Union's Country Strategy Paper.

The fund would be used for the upliftment of the poorest sector of the country and the facilitation of trade and investment.

Luc Vandebon, chargé d' affaires of the European Commission, said the development cooperation will consist of a rural development program and the expansion of the EC's support to the government's health sector reform agenda.

The other areas that would receive EU support are human rights development, stability and security, and good governance.

"Mindanao still remains a priority area in the context of helping the government pursue peace and development in the region," Vandebon told reporters during the First Southern Mindanao Upland Development Congress held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel here on Thursday.

He, however, stressed that the success of the program depends on the security of EU expatriates working in the country.

"Recently, the uncertainty of security resulted in a slackening of project implementation as TAs (technical assistants) had to be temporarily removed," Vandebon said.

Meanwhile, Vandebon lauded the government's "initiative and commitment to pursue peace talks with insurgent groups so as to achieve lasting peace in Mindanao."

He said this would help the completion of projects in various parts of the island. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cops to get pay hikes by July

BUTUAN CITY—Police personnel could now look forward to a fatter pay envelope.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina announced here on Wednesday that the salary standardization scheme for the Philippine National Police would be completed by July.

Lina, who officiated the oath taking of members of the Regional Peace and Order Council here, said with this development the salaries of policemen would already become at par with that of public school teachers.

He did not reveal how much the government would be spending for the additional pay, but said police officers are scheduled to receive an average monthly base pay increase of P2,208. ***Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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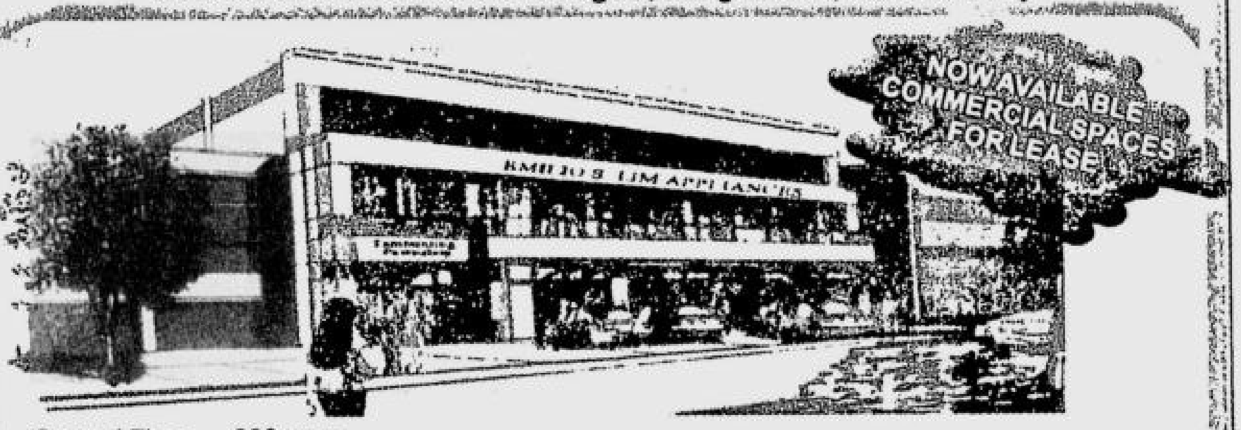

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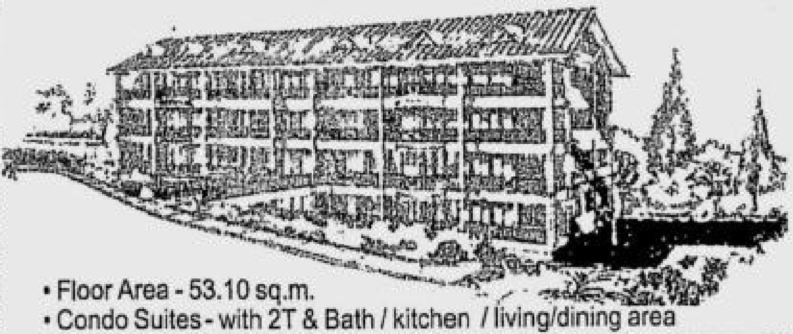

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GIs will shoot back at NPA rebels, says Tiglao

ROGER MARGALLO

ADM. Dennis Blair, head of the US Pacific Command, arrives in Manila to observe the Balikatan war exercises.

From page A1

the official statement," Tiglao said. "The CPP, especially Joma Sison, has a frame of mind that is equivalent to ideological racism."

Tiglao said that NPA guerrillas planning to hit American soldiers would have to pass through "joint" Filipino and American security forces whose mission is to protect the main body of US troops participating in the exercises.

"All security precautions" are being taken to ensure the safety of visiting American military personnel, he said.

About 2,700 American troops are arriving for Balikatan 02-2 to be held in several military camps in Luzon from April 22 to May 6.

Today, 2,003 American soldiers are expected to arrive in Clark, Pampanga. An advanced party of 50 American soldiers arrived in Clark last week to prepare for the logistics and technical requirements of the Balikatan 02-2.

Some 660 US military personnel, including 160 US Green Berets, are already deployed for Balikatan 02-1, a training exercise whose principal objective is to crush Abu Sayyaf bandits holding hostage an American couple and a Filipino nurse in Basilan.

The bandit group has alleged links to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Yesterday, the US Pacific Forces commander, Adm. Dennis Blair, arrived in Manila aboard a private jet to check on the progress of the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Tiglao appealed to the CPP-NPA to desist from undertaking attacks on American forces as "they might hit civilians."

He said Sison ordered the NPA to attack American forces because he wanted "to create an image as a national liberation warrior."

Communist rebels are "ideological racists" because they consider "wrong and satanic" anything that has to do with Americans, according to Tiglao. "It is based on a Cold War kind of ideology," he said.

For his part, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said Sison's order proved that he was an international terrorist.

"This only confirms his advocacy . . . the use of violence to attain his objectives and this will certainly be used by the nation coddling him to eventually expel him," Mabanta said. Sison is based in the Netherlands.

Tight security

Mabanta said the military was not taking Sison's threat lightly. He said the Armed Forces had already secured areas where Balikatan 02-2 and other joint military exercises would be held. "Balikatan 02-2 will be conducted in areas where security is under control," he said.

Mabanta said Balikatan 02-2, unlike Balikatan 02-1, would be conducted inside military bases such as those in Fort Magsaysay, in Ternate, Cavite, and in Clark, Pampanga.

This year, Balikatan 02-2 will use 39 aircraft, including four F-18 fighter planes, and the warship Fort McHenry.

Security was tightened at the Clark Special Economic Zone, especially at the south ramp of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, for the arrival of the American troops today.

But Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing, said the heightened security measures had "nothing to do whatsoever" with the CPP order for the NPA to "inflict severe casualties" on US troops.

"We've always been very vigilant," Ballesteros told the INQUIRER. "There's ample security."

Jaime Yambao, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement, said "force protection measures are already in place" for Balikatan 02-2.

Like in past joint military exercises, which resumed in 1999 under the VFA, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is securing the camps, according to Yambao.

The Philippine National Police, on the other hand, will provide additional security in civilian areas around the camps.

The same setup is enforced at the PAF's Crow Valley gunnery range in Tarlac, the Army's Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and the Navy's practice site in Ternate, Cavite, where the field exercises will be held.

Even in rest and recreation activities, American and Filipino troops are expected to observe strict military discipline, according to Yambao. He said most of the American troops would be entering Luzon through Clark.

Blair's schedule

Military officials in Mindanao said Blair was scheduled to visit the Armed Forces' Southern Command in Zamboanga City today as well as an army brigade headquarters in nearby Basilan Island.

"We are prepared and security preparations are already in place for Blair's visit in Basilan," Basilan Army chief, Col. Alexander Aleo, said.

US Special Forces commander Col. Donald Maxwell, who is supervising the training in Basilan, is to give Blair a briefing on the six-month joint exercises, which started in January, according to Aleo.

"Filipino troops will be deployed during his visit at the Army base in Isabela (Basilan's capital city) and I see no serious security concerns here because the Abu Sayyaf is now a spent force," Aleo said.

"Guerrillas are now on the run because of the military operation and sooner or later we will be able to get back all the hostages. It's only a matter of time," he said.

With a report from AFP

Peace builders tap karaoke, oral poetry

From page A1

of-peace workshop designed for key officials in local government units and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Later, the police chief of Kauswagan town crows an improvised song on the karaoke, and legislators from Bacolod town perform a skit that outstages Razo's solo gig.

All of the performances explore the same theme of "un-peace" not just caused by war but also by problems deeply rooted in poverty and injustice.

Workshops like this for the top leaders of the adjacent towns of Linamon, Kauswagan, and Bacolod, Lanao del Norte, are part of a program to train a corps of grassroots peace advocates in strife-torn Mindanao.

Rehabilitation

The grant, from the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP), is one among a slew of support poured by funding agencies to help rehabilitate areas affected by the military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) during the first half of 2000.

Kauswagan (pop. 30,000, 20 minutes by car from Iligan), for example, is the virtual flash point of that months-long war which spread in a wide arc of destruction all the way to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Cotabato.

On March 17, 2000, some MILF rebels occupied the Kauswagan town hall. The government troops repulsed the rebels the next day, but soon after, then President Joseph Estrada declared a military campaign to overrun MILF camps until the rebel stronghold, Camp Abubakar, fell in May that year.

The presidential pronouncement triggered an exodus of about 100,000 evacuees from the hinterlands of these and four other neighboring towns.

By the time the hostilities ended, the number of evacuees had ballooned to half a million and the cost of damage to lives and property hovered at more than P2 billion, according to government estimates.

Two years after, the survivors are still only beginning to rebuild their lives.

Peace workshop

Culture-of-peace workshops like this one have been held all over Mindanao since the late 1980s. They are part of the Mindanao peace process that the government started with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

From one's vantage point, this particular outcome of an exercise within the training design, however, puts in stark relief the role of media in peace-building.

Here, in the absence of the news media (read: reporters from mainstream newspapers and television networks), the people mined their own art forms, from *balak* to karaoke, without the slightest cue from the Community Organizers Multiversity (CoM) workshop trainers.

In fact, peace advocacy here pole-vaulted from Stage 1, using the "objective"/democratic news media as platform, to Stage 5, the use of native communication tools like the *balak* and even the popular entertainment machine called the karaoke.

Communication analyst Ross Howard has plotted in five stages the ways in which media could play a role in peace-building.

In Stage 5, the term "media" ceases to refer only to journalism and journalists.

For Howard, research coordinator of the Media and Peace building at the Institute of Media, Policy and Civil Society (Impacs), media include "soap operas, street theater, videos, comics—in other words, whatever it takes to get out the message to foster peaceful resolution of conflict."

The intended outcome, says the Toronto-based Impacs writer, is to foster a society as "we'd like it." It is a long way from the conventional "as-we-see-it" media.

Inventiveness

The Lanao group's inventiveness was sparked earlier by a poem by Reu Montecillo, a pastor of the Philippine Independent Church, who is a member of Panagdait, an interreligious group, which convened the training workshop for the LGSP.

Montecillo read his *balak* about the Mindanao conflicts and how the people are finding reconciliation in their midst. The poem finds a human face in "a boy in the '70s hearing his father ask why they are running from a war he cannot understand (*Tuig sitenta kaulom Mindanao imong nahiaguman/Kamatay,gubat, kalisud imong nasaksihan,/ Mga ginikanan moingon, managan ta kabataan,/ Tungod sa gubat nga nahiaguman nga dili ko masabtan*)."

The next lines are a flash forward to the war in 2000, "the boy, himself now a father, is again confronted by the same question from his own son as they run for their lives away from a war they still cannot understand (*Tuig dos mil, kami na usab nahimong ginikanan,/Guyud sa among mga anak kami sa usab nanagan,/Ang among kabataan nangutana unsa ang hinungdan/Sa kagubot nga nahiaguman nga dili ta gyud masabtan*)."

The poem is based on real life. "I was moved to write the poem after I heard Musa (Sanguila) tell his experiences," revealed Montecillo. Sanguila, a Maranao leader and co-founder of Panagdait, literally survived the Kauswagan battle, as well as the ensuing anti-Muslim prejudice.

The poetry, song and skit created by this group are akin to the cartoons created for former child soldiers in Angola and Sierra Leone, the videos for the refugees of Rwanda and a soap opera for the children of post-war Kosovo.

Such a cache of creativity and talents will soon be put to full use when the LGSP provides equipment and training for a community-based radio station and transmitter to cover the air lanes of the three Lanao del Norte towns, says Myn Garcia, LGSP communications consultant.

The community radio is patterned after the Unesco model and will explore the strong "synergy" among the LGUs and CSOs, adds Garcia.

Where are indeed the war correspondents who swarmed and risked limbs and lives in covering the frontlines in Kauswagan when the MILF stormed the town center? Did they not easily outnumber the rebels then?

Those in communication and media know the answer to these rhetorical questions. Since conflict coverage sells newspapers and elevates to several notches TV ratings much more than peace-building, the mainstream media seldom monitor, track down and see through the end of post-conflict reconstruction. They pack up as soon as the guns are silent and the ceasefire covenants are signed.

Gone are the front-page stories that hog the headlines. From now on, the dispatches are buried in the inside pages.

As of now, never mind the absence of mainstream media, somehow in places like these in Lanao, the townsfolk are not so bothered. They want to thrive on their own.

As Bagen Rakman Permites, a Maranao elder from Linamon, exclaimed, "Why import someone from New York or Manila to make our towns peaceful? We can do it ourselves. Let us use our new learning as a weapon to build peace."

For they simply are reinventing themselves as peace correspondents, assuming responsibility and savoring the pleasures of singing their own songs, telling their own stories of waging peace.

(The author is a former INQUIRER correspondent based in Cagayan de Oro City.)

Gloria . . .

From page A1

Lubao" and the country's ninth President, who started celebrating the country's independence on June 12 instead of July 4, the day the United States granted the Philippines independence.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the obverse of the new peso bill would bear the face of the late Macapagal while the reverse would feature her daughter taking her oath as the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Some people had asked whether the issuance of the bill was part of Ms Macapagal's campaign blitz in preparation for the 2004 elections. A peso note is an excellent campaign material because it changes hands often and will be exposed to millions of voters, according to a trader from a local bank.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura denied allegations that Malacañang had anything to do with choosing the President's father as the new face on the peso.

"The central bank feels there is a gap to be filled by a new P200 bill, and former President Macapagal is a strong choice," Buenaventura said. The euro, for instance, has a 200 denomination, he said.

He pointed out that the late Macapagal was the one responsible for changing the date of the country's independence to June 12, the day Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite, in 1998 during the Philippine Revolution.

But the late Macapagal, who led the country from 1961 to 1965, reversed many of the economic policies of his predecessor, Carlos P. Garcia, who first launched the "Filipino First" campaign.

The late Macapagal was responsible for lifting the control on imports and on the repatriation of dollars by multinational companies. He also allowed the peso to devalue from P2 to P3.90 against the dollar.

Heroes

Peso coins and bills in mass circulation feature the country's heroes and presidents, including Jose Rizal for the P1 coin, Emilio Aguinaldo for the P5 coin, and Andres Bonifacio and Apolinario Mabini for the P10 note;

Manuel L. Quezon for the P20 note, Manuel A. Roxas for the P100 note, Benigno Aquino Jr. for the P500 note, and the trio of Jose Abad Santos, Vicente Lim and Josefa Llanes Escoda for the P1,000-bill.

Only dead persons with significant contributions to history are normally chosen to grace the peso notes.

But the picture Ms Macapagal's swearing in does not violate the practice as it will be at the back of the P200 bill and will likely be a montage, according to a Bangko Sentral official.

The new bill is still being designed and the color is yet to be determined.

Stars join Banahaw cause

From page A1

that last March authorities began charging entrance fees just to raise funds for the post-Lenten cleanup.

But even the authorities know this is a mere short-term solution. What is really needed, in the words of movie actor and environmental activist Roy Alvarez, is to restore Banahaw's "sacredness."

By that word, he is not necessarily referring to the religious or paranormal phenomena the mountain is known for, but mainly to Banahaw's "health" as an ecosystem.

Fellow eco-activist and actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez explained: "Whether the legends and myths of Mt. Banahaw are true or not, the fact is the mountain has life—and life is sacred."

Technically an inactive water volcano, Banahaw is considered the country's most important natural spiritual center. But this living shrine has increasingly been attracting "irresponsible" visitors, Alvarez said.

They include trysting couples, radio-totting backpackers, liquor-smuggling thrill-seekers, and, worse, entire families of litterbugs.

"I have even heard of reports of shabu sessions taking place up there, (or) of lovers making out," he told the INQUIRER.

Instead of chants and prayers, "the noise of chainsaws" is often heard coming from somewhere in the mountain, added Alvarez.

Forest denudation has also taken its toll, he said, and locals have also complained about the uncontrolled gathering of medicinal tree bark and plants in the mountain—mainly, he said, by visiting merchants who peddle the items in Metro Manila, particularly outside Quiapo Church.

Mother Earth

Alvarez and Gutierrez are at the forefront of a Mother Earth Unlimited Philippines campaign that will be the focus of a sustained ecological rehabilitation program on Earth Day, April 22. The United Nations has declared 2002 as the Year of the Mountain.

The campaign enjoys the support of the local governments of Quezon, the Protected Areas Management Board, and volunteer groups like the Banahaw de Dolores Outdoor Club. It has also drawn the unified participation of local farmers and the 75 religious sects that dwell on Banahaw.

A native of Quezon province himself, Alvarez, has been designated consultant by Gov. Wilfredo Enverga on Banahaw's conservation.

Under the campaign dubbed "Bayanihan sa Kasagraduhan ng Bundok Banahaw," continuous reforestation and propagation work will kick off in May, along with the development of a "flower orchard" and medicinal herb farms.

Trekkers are to be banned from carrying plastic and styrofoam materials, bottles, tin cans and other non-biodegradable items. Instead, locally made *bayong*, recyclable paper bags and banana leaf wrappers will be sold, thus encouraging the growth of a local industry relying on indigenous raw material.

A "healing sanctuary" for psychic healers will be established in a specially designated community.

A youth camp will also be set up to serve as venue for teaching "ecological mountaineering" and raising environmental awareness among visitors.

Alvarez and Gutierrez said the campaign had been gathering momentum since January through environmental seminars and workshops given by Mother Earth, mainly in the province.

More programs

A colorful highlight in the run-up to Earth Day was the "Hambuhan Festival" held on April 11 in Dolores, Quezon, featuring street dancing and rituals inspired by nature myths and drawing local youth talents.

More environmental workshops, cleanup drives and rituals are scheduled for April 20-21 in various Banahaw sites.

Alvarez said he would hold workshops on "Inner-Outer Ecology" or the pursuit of a "holistic life."

On Earth Day itself, Quezon towns near Banahaw will highlight their environmental projects or activities, Gutierrez said.

"We are not trying to repackage Mt. Banahaw, but are reverting it to its original state—a model mountain, if you will," Alvarez said.

Gutierrez added: "We are restoring not just a mountain's bio-diversity but our fading environmental ethic which is crucial not only for preserving our own lives but the human spirit, whose true purpose for being in this world is to care."

(Interested parties may call Mother Earth Philippines at 0918-9198835.)

Venezuela putsch fails; Chavez back in power

From page A1

Some military officials will also be tried for military rebellion, he said.

Tens of thousands of people surrounded the presidential palace Sunday after news of Carmona's resignation. They set off powerful fireworks, awaiting Chavez's return.

"Chavez is coming! Chavez is coming!" cried Dario Fereira, an unemployed man wearing a tattered shirt.

Chavez administration officials—many of whom had evaded dozens of police raids under Carmona's brief reign—and loyalist military officers hugged each other in the palace's marble courtyard.

"In these past two days, they have persecuted us," said Rafael Ramirez, president of the state-run national gasoline company.

Unshaven and with red-rimmed eyes, Ramirez said he had hidden in friends' homes after Chavez was arrested on Friday.

Asked about the turnaround, Ramirez said: "It's marvelous because the Venezuelan people responded to this illegal coup attempt."

Chavez's labor minister, Maria Cristina Iglesias, said Chavez was held on Orchila Island off the Venezuelan coast.

Street protest

Carmona, a businessman and co-leader of a general strike that led to Chavez's ouster, was named president by the military high command Friday, hours after generals arrested Chavez for allegedly ordering gunmen to fire on a 150,000-strong opposition protest on Thursday.

Sixteen died and hundreds were wounded in the melee. Dozens more died in rioting and looting on Saturday.

Caracas Mayor Alfredo Pena said at least nine people were killed and 40 wounded on Saturday. But an Associated Press reporter saw dozens of bodies at city hospitals.

"We have every right to protest, but they are gunning us down out there," said Edgar Paredes, his clothes soaked in blood as he brought his wounded brother, Luis, to a hospital.

He didn't know who shot him and probably never will. Like most violent demonstrations here, gunfire can erupt from any side at any time.

Demonstrators supporting Chavez—or opposed to the way he was ousted—forced Carmona to step down. The commander of a strategic airbase in the central city of Maracay rebelled Saturday, setting in motion nationwide protests demanding Chavez's return.

Thousands took to the streets, taking over state TV, to demand that Chavez be reinstalled.

Military split

Signaling a split in the armed forces, several military commanders refused to accept Carmona's appointment.

Some Latin American leaders denounced Friday's irregular transition of power. The United States said Chavez was responsible for his own ouster because of attempts to violently suppress the Thursday demonstration.

Thursday's march capped a general strike called to support oil executives who had been protesting for six weeks a Chavez-appointed board of directors in the state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela.

A work slowdown by the executives severely cut production and exports in Venezuela, the No. 3 exporter of oil to the United States.

Before Chavez returned to the palace, his supporters displayed his huge floodlit poster. A military band stood at the ready. Red-bereted soldiers with automatic rifles paced the hallways; others pumped their fists and egged the crowd on.

"Chavistas" seized the state-run TV station late Saturday. Even as gunfire rattled downtown streets, pro-Chavez lawmaker Juan Barreto praised the "peaceful insurrection" that called for Chavez's return.

Bowing to a demand by restive army commanders, Carmona said early Saturday that Chavez would be allowed to leave the country.

He promised to reinstate the country's National Assembly, which he had dissolved on Friday, along with the Constitution, Supreme Court and other institutions.

Loss of labor support

Carmona also lost the support of the 1 million-strong Venezuelan Workers Confederation, which co-led last week's general strike, after Carmona decided to dissolve Congress, said confederation director Jesus Urbietta.

Jesse Chacon, president of Venezuela's telecommunications agency, said the conduct of TV stations last week would be investigated. Chacon condemned stations that failed to cover protests against Chavez's ouster.

At least 20 disturbances were reported in Caracas on Saturday. Unrest was also reported in the cities of Maracay, Guarenas, Los Teques and Coro.

Police fought pitched battles with Chavez supporters in the western Caracas slum of Catia, a Chavez stronghold.

AP

Powell sees Palestinian leader amid war rubble

From page A1

anytime soon. Sharon yesterday called Powell's visit to the West Bank a "tragic mistake."

Witnesses said the Israelis had sent bulldozers overnight to clear away some of the wreckage around Arafat's headquarters to prepare for the US official's arrival.

Philippine support

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the Philippines would support a United Nations resolution calling for the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in the West Bank.

"If it is a UN-sponsored resolution, the Philippines will most likely support it," Tiglao said.

He said the country was willing to contribute troops to an international peacekeeping force so long as another party will bear the expenses.

"We will evaluate (the possibility of sending Philippine troops) depending on available resources," he said. "If we send a battalion, we might not be able to afford it if we are the ones paying."

In Congress, Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah Dumarpa urged Malacañang to join the international community's appeal for Israel to pull its troops out of all Palestinian cities.

"Since it appears that Israel is no longer interested in listening to the counsel of the United States, it is now the turn of the international community, the Philippines included, to offer advice of peace to the sons of David," Dumarpa said in a statement.

She said the Macapagal administration could issue a statement informing Israeli leaders "that Filipinos believe the negotiating table remains the best guarantee for lasting peace in the Middle East."

Dumarpa emphasized that the wounding of two Filipinos in suicide bombings in Israel, as well as the recent oil price increases, were "preliminary tragedies that could worsen (into) catastrophic proportions if the conflict is not resolved."

Sharon has defied US calls to end the offensive, which has outraged the Arab world and set off serious international concern over the fate of the Palestinians amid fears of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Powell said earlier that Arab leaders had warned him US credibility was at stake over Israeli actions and the strong support from Washington, which gives the Jewish state $3 billion a year in aid, most of it military.

Powell had called off talks with Arafat set for Saturday after another Palestinian suicide bomber blew herself up on Friday outside a crowded Jerusalem market, killing six people, including two Chinese nationals, and leaving around 80 people wounded, several of them seriously.

He agreed to meet with him on Sunday after the Palestinian leader issued a statement condemning terrorist attacks on civilians.

The statement said Arafat and the Palestinian leadership "firmly condemn operations targeting Israeli civilians, particularly the recent one in Jerusalem," referring to Friday's attack.

It added: "We firmly condemn the crimes and massacres committed by the Israeli occupation forces against civilians and Palestinian refugees in Nablus, the Jenin camp, the church in Bethlehem and other Palestinian zones in the past two weeks."

The statement was delivered in Arabic and broadcast on Palestinian television, two conditions set by the Americans amid charges that Arafat often sends a different message to his own people from which he does to the West.

It also came after Powell said: "We are particularly concerned at the humanitarian situation in Jenin. Israeli forces must exercise their utmost restraint and discipline and refrain from the excessive use of force."

The Palestinians have called for an international inquiry into the events at the Jenin refugee camp, where they said an Israeli army "massacre" killed 500 people, and that mass graves were dug to try to cover up the evidence.

The Israelis have dismissed the charge as propaganda, but the Israeli Supreme Court on Friday temporarily ordered the army to stop moving bodies inside the camp, which was the site of a fierce days-long battle with Palestinian fighters.

The court is expected to issue a final ruling Sunday.

Sharon insists that no peace can be made with Arafat and that the army campaign, which has left a trail of destruction across what had been autonomous Palestinian land, is aimed at stopping terror attacks on Israel.

But Powell's visit is bound to boost Arafat's standing as the leader of the Palestinian people and the one Israel must deal with to seek a peace accord.

Powell is also calling for restraint by Israeli forces on the West Bank and for "unimpeded access to humanitarian organizations" for the Palestinian people caught up in the 16-day Israeli siege. *With reports from AFP, AP, Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño*

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April 18-19	Customer Service Excellence (NEW)
April 19-20	Meat Shop Management and Meat Cutting *(with field trip)*
April 20-21	Laundry Soap and Detergents *(in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)*
April 20-21	Decorative Candle Making *(in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)*
April 20-21	Reflexology
April 20-21	Dollar Trading/Foreign Currency Exchange
April 22	Franchising a Business
April 22-25	Fiberglass Products Manufacturing
April 23-24	Setting up a Hardware and Construction Supply Store
April 24-25	Basic Reservation and Ticketing for Travel Agencies
April 25-26	Purchasing and Supply Management for Business Operators (NEW)
April 26	Transparent Soap *(in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)*
April 27-28	Aroma Candle Making *(in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)*
April 27-28	Jewelry Appraisal and Pawnshop Operation
April 27-29	Operating a Laundry Shop Business (Small-Scale) *(with field trip)*
April 27-29	Fresh Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation and Management *(with field trip)*
April 29-30	Catering Business Operation
April 29-30	Aromatherapy
April 30	Setting up a Travel Agency

Operating a Retail Store Business, previously slated on Apr. 20-23, postponed for a later date.

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April 24-27	Comprehensive Mushroom Growing (Tropical, Semi-temperate and Temperate) *(with field trip)*
April 25-26	Intensive Culture of Tilapia in Tanks *(with field trip)*
April 25-27	Orchid Growing and Nursery Management *(with field trip)*
April 28-29	Semi-Intensive Culture of Milkfish (*Bangus*) in Marine, Brackish and Fresh Water *(with field trip)*
April 29-30 & May 2	Animal Feed Formulation and Production *(with field trip)*

Courses

April 16-17	Pastillas Making
April 17-18	Processing of Chicharon and Other Pork By-Products
April 18-21	Home Bakeshop
April 22	Flavored and Fortified Juice
April 22-23	Basic Cake Decorating
April 23-25	Affordable Bakery Products ("Pang-masa") *(Pre-requisite: basic knowledge in baking)*
April 26-27	Basic Meat Processing
April 27-30	Commercial Breadmaking and Bakery Management
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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The Power of Knowledge

25 Years

Negros Occ. festival shows promise of diversification

From page A1

tected by US quotas and tariffs, were one of the leading Philippine foreign exchange earners until the 1970s.

Sugar as the foundation of the Negros economy is hardly highlighted in the exhibits, except for the sugar products of Victorias Milling Co. and *piyaya*, a delicacy laced with brown sugar. The highlight is focused on Negros handicrafts, vegetables, fruits and fish.

Handicrafts are targeted to the export market, but the rest of the products are meant for the domestic market. They don't offer, therefore, an alternative to the sunset sugar industry as a revenue earner for the province, as well as for the nation.

What comes off clearly in the exhibits is that Negros is still a mono-crop economy, which was a good thing when sugar prices and the province offered a comparative advantage in producing sugar relative to other provinces in the country. Negros Occidental has produced about 55 percent of the country's sugar. Total national production is 1.8 million metric tons, a far cry, however, from the more than 2 million MT produced in the salad days of the industry.

Current price is P800 per bag of 50 kilos, a price that gives the planters a small margin of profit and that permits them to stay afloat. The Philippines still has a quota of 850,000 MT in the United States, but prices behind the US tariff wall are not much better than prices in the world market.

Local sugar consumption is 1.4 million MT against a total annual production of 1.8 million MT. The domestic market is, therefore, the main market of our sugar. The rest are exported to the United States to fill part of the US quota, which the country needs as a "safety net," market in case of sharp fall of prices in the world market.

Plunge

During the administration of President Joseph Estrada, the sugar industry was sent down to its knees by two developments—the 1997 Asian financial crisis the and smuggling of sugar mainly coming from Thailand. The smuggling was allegedly linked to close relatives of Estrada.

It dumped sugar at half the cost of production of the local sugar industry. As a sop to the planters, the past administration allowed planters' cooperatives to import sugar, which meant that they were to become traders rather than producers. Smuggling came under control with the change in administration, giving the planters a breathing spell to compete in open market conditions, rather than in underground prices of smuggled sugar.

Filipino farmers are still one of the least efficient sugar producers in the world, and their relatively high production costs, aggravated by mills, most of which are 40 to 50 years, and lack of government incentives, have tied them to a sunset industry. There is no lack of awareness on the part of the cane farmers for the need to diversify crops and to search for alternatives to sugar.

Old habits

But old habits die hard. Fish and seafood are abundant around the island, but they are being depleted. There are no canning factories for fish, except Victorias Milling, which cans Spanish-style sardines, or for fruits for exports.

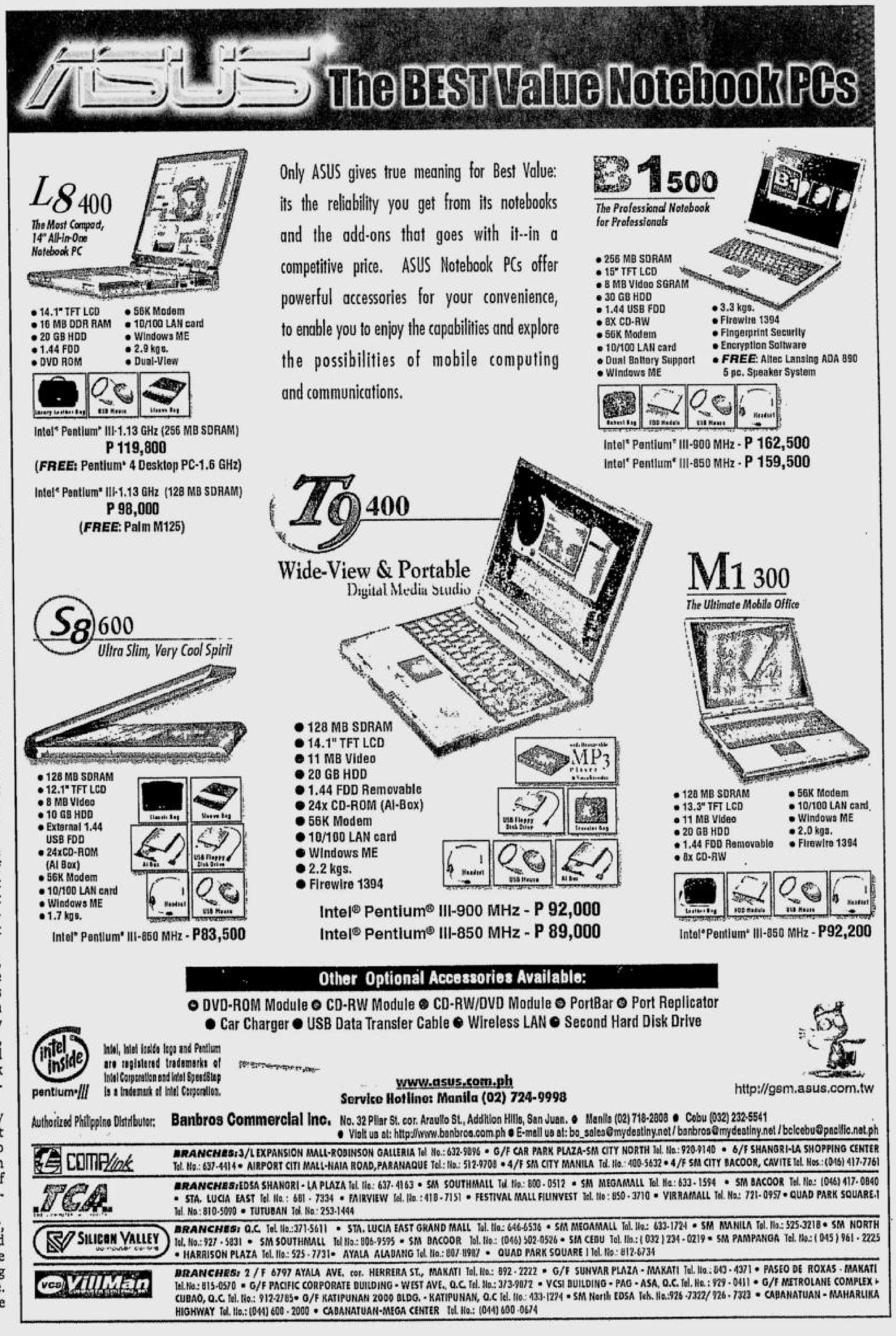
In the 1980s, *hacenderos*, threatened by land reform, shifted part of the land in a big way to prawn farming which required a large capital investment. For a while, prawns for exports were a hit. But the overuse of prawn farms and too frequent harvests made the prawns susceptible to disease. Virus infection swept the farms, killing the infant enterprise and pushing back the farmers to dependence on an inefficient sugar industry.

The most dynamic of the booths in the festival is that of Sagay City in northern Negros. It has a diversified economy that seeks to expand rice and fish production, making it less dependent on sugar.

Its enterprising mayor, Fortunato Javelosa, aims to make Sagay a "producers' city," and so is encouraging handicraft production and has in fact gone into dairy farming. His city runs a dairy farm, a rarity in Negros Occidental whose milk products sell well. Milk is also distributed free to 700 children.

The festival exhibits display promise of diversification but Negros will have to take a big leap for a so-called economic paradigm shift to make up for the decline of the sugar industry and the mono-crop culture it has fostered.

The primary products—sugar, fruits, fish and vegetables—and their agricultural infrastructure are in place. They await processing for entry into the industrial stage. That is the direction to which the exhibits at the festival point.



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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Thai takes vacant WBA crown

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand—Thailand's Yodsanan Nantachai on Saturday took over the vacant WBA super featherweight title in a unanimous decision over No.1 contender Lakva Sim of Mongolia. Yodsanan, 27—also known by the ring name "3K Battery"—became the first Thai boxer to become champion of the WBA's super featherweight class. *AP*

Williams, Henin reach final

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida—American top Venus Williams stormed back from a 5-3 deficit in the first set to beat unseeded Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 7-5, 6-0 Saturday and reach the final of the $585,000 Bausch & Lomb Championships at Amelia Island Plantation. Williams will meet No. 2 Justine Henin of Belgium for the title on Sunday. *AP*

Gems whip Amigos

GAME TOMORROW *(RMC Gym, Davao)*
6 p.m.—Pampanga vs Davao

By Roy Luarca

SAN FABIAN, Pangasinan—The Cebuana Lhuillier Gems found an unlikely savior in Egay Echavez yesterday.

Just when the Gems' top gunners went silent, Echavez struck and sparked the Gems to a 106-101 victory over the Cagayan de Oro Amigos in the MBA First Conference at the CDCSC Gym here.

Echavez pumped in 16 points in the fourth quarter to power the Gems to their third straight victory in as many outings as he made up for the scoring slump of Bruce Dacia and Stephen Padilla.

The 5-foot-8 Echavez, showing the form that landed him a spot in the Seaba men's championship last year, wound up with 26 points, two assists and two steals to earn best player honors.

Echavez highlighted his fiery shooting by making five of nine triple attempts, making Gems fans forget about Dacia, who finished with just four points, and Padilla, who got blanked.

Like in their previous wins over Osaka Pangasinan and Professional Davao, however, Cebuana Lhuillier had to struggle before handing Cagayan de Oro its third straight defeat.

Though the Gems led most part of the game, they found themselves trailing at 80-67 as the Amigos dropped a crippling 23-4 salvo in the last eight minutes of the third quarter.

Gilbert Castillo nailed a jumper with seven seconds left as Osaka Pangasinan nipped Pampanga, 92-90, in the second game. Osaka improved to 2-1 while Pampanga fell to 0-2.

Scores:

CEBUANA LHUILLIER 106—Echavez 26, De Jesus 20, Lumantas 14, Tangkay 14, Taguines 14, Rodriguez 11, Dacia 4, Quilban 4, Pingris 0, Padilla 0, Solomon 0.

CAGAYAN DE ORO 101—Naron 25, Manucat 18, Sanz 13, Lopez 10, Buenaventura 8, Calimag 8, Bughao 7, Epondulan 6, Capus 6, Bravo, Pimentel 0, Manuel 0.

Quarters: 28-21, 57-49, 67-80, 106-101.

Kutitap faces Ana, eyes 3rd straight win

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Complex)*
4 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Kutitap
6 p.m.—Shark vs John-O-Juzz

By Dennis U. Eroa

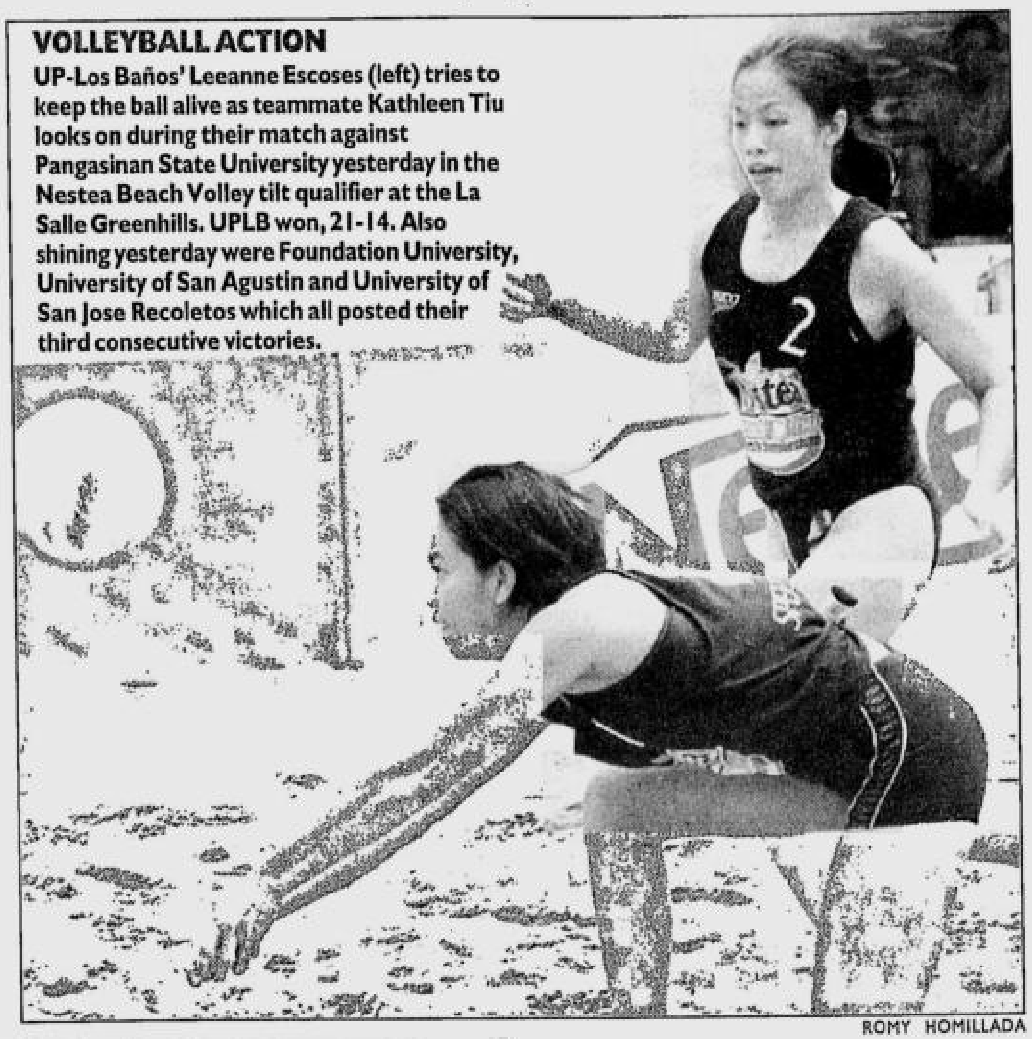
KUTITAP aims to force a two-way tie for the lead as it tackles Ana Freezers today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

A victory by Kutitap will power the Sparklers to their third straight win and a tie for the lead with Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation. The game is set at 4 p.m.

Shark Energy Drink meets John-O-Juzz in the second game at 6 p.m.

Rudy Mendoza, PBL Press Corps choice as 2001 coach of the year, is aiming to steer the Freezer Kings to their second straight win after beating Montaña Jewels, 75-67 last week.

"The team is slowly improving after a lousy start," said Mendoza.



VOLLEYBALL ACTION
UP-Los Baños' Leeanne Escoses (left) tries to keep the ball alive as teammate Kathleen Tiu looks on during their match against Pangasinan State University yesterday in the Nestea Beach Volley tilt qualifier at the La Salle Greenhills. UPLB won, 21-14. Also shining yesterday were Foundation University, University of San Agustin and University of San Jose Recoletos which all posted their third consecutive victories.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Tigers stop Phone Pals

GAME TOMORROW *(Philsports)*
6 p.m.—Hapee-RP vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA pierced through Talk N Text's armor of invincibility and salvaged a twice-to-beat edge going to the quarterfinals with a 95-90 win last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ron Hale bore the biggest hole of all, exploding for 42 points on top of 10 rebounds and six assists as the Tigers capped their elimination campaign with an 8-3 win-loss record.

With Hale unstoppable and Freddie Abuda sinking his shots, the Tigers stood their ground in the final quarter and went on to stop the Phone Pals' eight-game winning run.

Barangay Ginebra denied Batang Red Bull the luxury of a twice-to-beat advantage after hammering out a 98-90 win in the second game.

Knicks face Heat

THE NEW York Knicks and the Miami Heat renew their fierce rivalry today (Monday, April 15) live at 10 a.m. on the Solar cable channel (Skycable-24 and Homecable-17), with a replay at 8 p.m. **Complete results**: Atlanta 128, Cleveland 123, 2OT; Dallas 116, Seattle 99; San Antonio 113, Memphis 92; Detroit 124, Chicago 106; Denver 98, Phoenix 94; Utah 109, Golden State 101; Minnesota 101, L.A. Clippers 98. *AP*

QC sportsfest under way

BELMONTE

THE QUEZON City government under Mayor Sonny Belmonte together with the Immaculate of Mary Parish at UP Village are staging the Sports Fest 2002, an event aimed at harnessing the youth's sports skills and keep them away from drugs.

Eight barangays and about 185,000 families from the city's urban poor will benefit from the endeavor, according to Belmonte.

The meet kicked off yesterday and will be held every Saturday and Sunday thereafter.

Basketball, volleyball, billiards, chess and other sports are on tap in the event which will conclude on May 26 at the Claret school grounds.

Vice Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista, Rep. Nanette Daza of QC District 4 and lawyer Marcos Lauron of K-Swiss are also backing the meet.

Longshots prevail

FAMILY Task brought down Wind Blown's conqueror, while Golden Eagle soared as upsets rocked yesterday's two major races at San Lazaro.

Brilliantly handled by Fernando Raquel Jr., Family Task charged back down the stretch to beat Staunch Ally in the PCSO Grand Championship. Staunch Ally recently shocked Wind Blown in the Commissioner's Cup.

In the Hopeful Stakes, Rudy Mendoza's Golden Eagle, getting a strong ride from Pat Dilema, rallied like a house on fire to edge Myther Buñag's Ilocandia Slew in the event where Arriba King's eight-race winning run was snapped.

the UNBUNDLING of power rates

- It is mandated by law and required of all electric utilities, including NPC and electric cooperatives (Section 36, Republic Act 9136 or "The Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001).
- It is according to the methodology and worksheet prescribed by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), as specified in its "Uniform Filing Requirements (UFR)" released October 30, 2001 (www.doe.gov.ph.).
- It is mandated that costs for the year 2000 be used in the unbundling of electricity charges (see ERC's UFR and Rule 15 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9136).
- Meralco, in accordance with law and ERC's instructions, submitted its unbundling filing last December 26, 2001. Its application is docketed as ERC Case No. 2001-900.

No customer will experience a doubling of electricity bills with the unbundling.

Since Meralco's basic distribution charges were last set eight (8) years ago, in February 1994, Meralco's unbundling proposal, under the rules set by the government, will result in the following:

RESIDENTIAL

Consumption (kWh)	March 2002 Bill (Pesos)	Proposed Bill* (Pesos)	Increase / (Decrease)			
			In Pesos	In Pesos per Day	In Pesos per kWh	In Percent
50	238.37	235.25	(3.12)	(0.10)	(0.06)	(1.3)
100	564.86	624.50	59.64	1.92	0.60	10.6
200	1,217.83	1,367.00	149.17	4.81	0.75	12.2
300	1,870.81	2,109.50	238.69	7.70	0.80	12.8
500	3,264.89	3,712.50	447.61	14.44	0.90	13.7
1,000	6,564.78	7,460.00	895.22	28.88	0.90	13.6

* Using April 2, 2002 revised rate schedules

- 700,000 customers, or 20% of Meralco's residential users (or those consuming 50 kWh or less per month) will not experience any increase.
- The increases for 70% of Meralco's residential users (or those consuming 51 to 300 kWh per month) have been tempered under an alternative proposal submitted to the ERC last April 2, 2002.
- The increases for commercial and industrial establishments will be moderate.

Demand (kW)	Consumption (kWh)	Rate (Pesos per kWh)			%-Inc.
		March 2002	Proposed	Increase	
COMMERCIAL (NON-INDUSTRIAL)					
500	100,000	6.70	7.05	0.35	5.2%
500	200,000	6.12	6.25	0.13	2.1%
500	300,000	5.93	5.98	0.05	0.8%
INDUSTRIAL					
1,000	200,000	6.28	6.67	0.39	6.2%
1,000	400,000	5.73	5.87	0.14	2.4%
1,000	600,000	5.54	5.60	0.06	1.1%

RESIDENTIAL

50 kWh Consumption			
Generation/ Transmission Charge	50 kWh @	P4.155 per kWh	P207.75
Distribution System Charge	50 kWh @	P2.83 per kWh	141.50
Metering Charge	50 kWh @	P0.17 per kWh	8.50
Supply Charge	50 kWh @	P1.38 per kWh	69.00
Universal Charge Lifeline Subsidy	50 kWh @	(P3.53 per kWh)	(176.50)
Power Act Reduction	50 kWh @	(P0.30 per kWh)	(15.00)
TOTAL Charges			**P235.25**
Rate per kWh			**P4.705/kWh**

100 kWh Consumption			
Generation/ Transmission Charge	100 kWh @	P4.155 per kWh	P415.50
Distribution System Charge	100 kWh @	P2.83 per kWh	283.00
Metering Charge	100 kWh @	P0.17 per kWh	17.00
Supply Charge	100 kWh @	P1.38 per kWh	138.00
Universal Charge Lifeline Subsidy	100 kWh @	P0.03 per kWh	3.00
Regular Subsidy	100 kWh @	(P2.02 per kWh)	(202.00)
Power Act Reduction	100 kWh @	(P0.30 per kWh)	(30.00)
TOTAL Charges			**P624.50**
Rate per kWh			**P6.245/kWh**

200 kWh Consumption			
Generation/ Transmission Charge	200 kWh @	P4.155 per kWh	P831.00
Distribution System Charge	200 kWh @	P2.83 per kWh	566.00
Metering Charge	200 kWh @	P0.17 per kWh	34.00
Supply Charge	200 kWh @	P1.38 per kWh	276.00
Universal Charge Lifeline Subsidy	200 kWh @	P0.03 per kWh	6.00
Regular Subsidy	200 kWh @	(P1.43 per kWh)	(286.00)
Power Act Reduction	200 kWh @	(P0.30 per kWh)	(60.00)
TOTAL Charges			**P1,367.00**
Rate per kWh			**P6.835/kWh**

COMMERCIAL (NON-INDUSTRIAL)

Demand, kW	500	Delivery Voltage, kV	13.8
Consumption, kWh	**300,000**	**Power Factor, %**	**98**
Generation/ Transmission Charge	300,000 kWh @	P4.155 per kWh	P1,246,500.00
Distribution System Charge	500 kW @	P330.00 per kW	165,000.00
Power Factor Adjustment	P165,000.00 @	-5%	(8,250.00)
Metering Charge	500 kW @	P8.00 per kW	4,000.00
Supply Charge	300,000 kWh @	P0.24 per kWh	72,000.00
Universal Charge Lifeline Subsidy	300,000 kWh @	P0.03 per kWh	9,000.00
Regular Subsidy	300,000 kWh @	P1.02 per kWh	306,000.00
TOTAL Charges			**P1,794,250.00**
Rate per kWh			**P5.98/kWh**

INDUSTRIAL

Demand, kW	1,000	Delivery Voltage, kV	34.5
Consumption, kWh	**600,000**	**Power Factor, %**	**98**
Generation/ Transmission Charge	600,000 kWh @	P4.155 per kWh	P2,493,000.00
Distribution System Charge	1,000 kW @	P330.00 per kW	330,000.00
Power Factor Adjustment	P330,000.00 @	-5%	(16,500.00)
Metering Charge	1,000 kW @	P8.00 per kW	8,000.00
Supply Charge	600,000 kWh @	P0.24 per kWh	144,000.00
Universal Charge Lifeline Subsidy	600,000 kWh @	P0.03 per kWh	18,000.00
Regular Subsidy	600,000 kWh @	P0.64 per kWh	384,000.00
TOTAL Charges			**P3,360,500.00**
Rate per kWh			**P5.60/kWh**

Unbundling provides transparency and reflects true cost of service.

- Consumers will be able to see what they are paying for, how much it truly costs to provide them electric service, and how much subsidy they receive or provide for other electricity users.

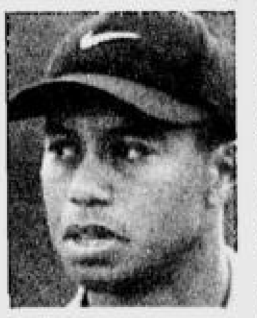
All unbundling applications will undergo regulatory evaluation and public hearings.

- Public hearings at the ERC on Meralco's unbundling proposal were already held on March 11 and 12 and April 2, 5, and 9, 2002. Another hearing is scheduled for April 17, 2002 at 2 p.m.

MERALCO

US MASTERS

Woods, Goosen share top spot



WOODS

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Look past the muck and the mess covering Augusta National. This Masters is shaping up to be a real beauty.

Tiger Woods roared into his familiar position, pointing confidently to the cup as his birdie putt disappeared on the final hole Saturday to give him a 6-under 66 and a share of the lead.

Staring him in the eye is Retief Goosen, the unflappable US Open champion who looks as if he's about to take a nap even at the most pressure-packed moments.

Vijay Singh was only two strokes behind, a victim of a few bad swings and mud on his ball, but still very much in position to claim his second green jacket in three years.

Go down the top seven spots in the world ranking and the only guy not on the star-studded leaderboard was David Duval, who missed the cut and was already home in Florida when another dynamic Masters began to unfold.

"I feel very comfortable because I've been here before," Woods said.

Just last year, Woods battled chief rivals Duval and Phil Mickelson on the back nine Sunday to win the Masters and complete his historic sweep of the majors.

That kind of history isn't on the line, but the prospects are just as tantalizing

When Arnold Palmer said goodbye after 48 years at the Masters and the rain finally subsided, the stars began to emerge.

It wasn't just Woods, Goosen and Singh. Filling out this year's cast was Mickelson, two-time US Open champion Ernie Els and 22-year-old Spaniard Sergio Garcia.

"It's going to be a dogfight," Garcia said. *AP*

3rd round scores:

Tiger Woods	70-69-66-205
Retief Goosen	69-67-69-205
Vijay Singh	70-65-72-207
Ernie Els	70-67-72-209
Sergio Garcia	68-71-70-209
Phil Mickelson	69-72-68-209
Jose Maria Olazabal	70-69-71-210
Thomas Bjorn	74-67-70-211
Padraig Harrington	69-70-72-211
Angel Cabrera	68-71-73-212
Chris DiMarco	70-71-72-213
Mike Weir	72-71-71-214
Adam Scott	71-72-72-215
Nick Faldo	75-67-73-215
Brad Faxon	71-75-69-215

SPORTSWATCH

Jungolf circuit resumes

THE SUMMER circuit of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines resumes today with the third leg, the Sherwood Hills Jungolf Open, in Trece Martires, Cavite. Canlubang bet Michael Bibat will be gunning for his third straight title and fourth overall since topping the eliminations for the Asian Juniors as the top favorite in boys Class A. Results of the event will again count in the qualifying process for the country's contingent to the Junior World golf championships in San Diego, California this coming July. Jungolf president Merwin Mediana said that while boys Class A has been a Michael Bibat Show, the rest of the divisions have been closely fought especially in Class B.

3 Filipino boxers lose

KAUNAS, Lithuania—Team Caltex Philippines lost three golds to the host country and one to Latvia to go home with four silvers in the sixth Algirdas Socikas International boxing Championships here Saturday. Lightflyweight Harry Tanamor, flyweight Violito Payla and lightwelterweight Romeo Brin bowed to Lithuanians who went on to claim overall supremacy in the three-day meet with five gold medals. Lightweight Anthony Igusquiza lost the power of his punch early and fell to Latvia's Ahmetovs Andrejs, 17-31. The Filipinos, whose participation here is sponsored by Caltex Philippines and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon, finished seventh overall among 123 nations.

Efren's Tokyo victory on TV

VIVA Vintage Sports presents for the first time on television the sensational triumph of Efren "Bata" Reyes in the Tokyo 9-Ball Championship. The event, considered as the biggest tournament in the history of billiards, drew over 700 top competitors from 32 countries and staked a record top prize of US$160,000. The four featured matches begin with Reyes battling countryman and reigning Japan Open champion Antonio Lining in the quarterfinals to be aired today (April 15) from 6-8 p.m. over Viva Television on IBC-13. On Friday (April 19) at 6 p.m., Chinese-Taipei's 2000 World Pool Champion Fong Pang Chao takes on sensational young Dutchman Niels Feijen in the first semifinal.

Exalta GS impresses crew

BUTUAN—The daredevil crew of four on board a sparkling silver colored sedan which is on an island-hopping odyssey, described the Nissan Exalta GS Superio as "the most technically advanced car in its class" as the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon wrapped up its Hurst stage Saturday. "As far as the engine performance and safety features are concerned, we give the Exalta a grade of A-plus," said renowned marathoner Andy Dysangco, who turned over the keys of the 1.6-liter, 116-horsepower Exalta to the Juvy Catajoy upon reaching Matnog, Sorsogon, in preparation for its assault of Ilocandia starting Sunday night. The Caltex Havoline odometer has passed the 10,000 kilometer mark, but the intrepid team of rally drivers and navigators have only respect and admiration for the sedan that remains on the run since being named off on April 5 at the Eastwood City in Quezon City.

Athletes scholarships ready

AN initial batch of 40 national athletes are bound to receive scholarships from a reputable computer school when a memorandum of agreement is signed among officials of the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc. and Informatics. The MOA signing is scheduled Wednesday, two days before the PAAFI celebrates its first year founding anniversary on Friday. "We appreciate the support given to us by the PSC, now chaired by our former colleague, Mr. Eric Buhain, and Informatics computer school," said PAAFI president Leonora Escollante, an athlete and coach at the Philippine Canoe and Kayak Federation. The scholarship package is initially worth P105,000. The PSC is bankrolling the scholarship of 30 athletes while Informatics has offered 10 slots. The recipients, whom the PMFI will call Isportsskolar ng Bayan, will be selected by a screening committee to be created by the association, according to Escollante.

Summer Camp opens today

SEVEN more popular sports disciplines will be offered when the 4th edition of the Youth Summer Camp kicks off today at GameworX Inc., Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City. GameworX Inc. and Pepsi Inc. once again joined hands in promoting the camp which carries the slogan "Training d future 2day". The camp, which opens at 10 a.m. will last until May 17. Sports to be conducted are bowling, billiards, darts, in-line hockey, karatedo and dance sport. "Everyone is invited to attend our annual Summer Camp," said GameworX marketing manager Christian Datol.

Eagle Ridge tilt gets boost from Mizuno

GOPEZ

AS COURSE attendance rose significantly with host members joining their guests in practice rounds to familiarize themselves with playing conditions the past week, the prize package for Eagle Ridge Invitational golf tournament set April 19-21 got a tremendous boost with the entry of Mizuno as a major sponsor.

Mizuno, through its managing director Lovell Gopez, will be giving away its market-leading equipment and apparel worth no less than P200,000 that will complement the previously announced package of cars, appliances and computers for the tournament and raffle.

Included in the Mizuno offer are two hole-in-one prizes, a T-Zoid Sure and Liasion, its hot-selling T-Zoid Forged drivers, caddie bags and boston bags.

"We share the vision of the Eagle Ridge in attracting as many local and foreign golfers into its huge complex and the sponsorship is in support of the club's noble goal to provide the best service to its membership," said Gopez.

On top of the Mizuno prizes, at stake are a Honda City also for a hole-in-one. A Ford Lynx is the top raffle prize that goes with kitchen and appliance showcases and so many other items totaling more than a million pesos.

As of yesterday, 180 teams are already listed and organizers hope to breach the 200-team mark in time for Friday's opening tee-off. For inquiries please call 046-4192841 (look for Gwyne) or fax to 046-4192843.

Major sponsors for the event set to be played at the Faldo and Dye courses are Readycon, Unirock, GG&A Club Development and Golforce Inc. Hole sponsors are Kart Plaza Manufacturing, Citibank, Club Consultancy, Mandarin Oriental, Microtel and Golf Library

Participating teams can choose from three separate shotgun tee-offs at 10 a.m.: Friday-Saturday, Friday-Sunday or Saturday-Sunday.

Manila Amateur: A battle for all ages at Wack Wack

THE SENIORS duel between former national champions Caloy Coscolluela and Alex Montelibano will spice up the explosive showdown of the young hotshots in the inaugural Manila Amateur on April 23-26 at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Coscolluela and Montelibano will be leading the charge in the seniors competition which has attracted a starry field of 50-plus swingers including former congressman and Wack Wack member Gilberto Duavit.

Most, if not all, of the country's bemedalled and promising shotmakers are already in the registry.

They include the three aces disputing the title as the country's best–Angelo Que, Marlon Dizon and Juvic Pagunsan—as well as experienced veterans like Abe Rosal, Rolly Viray, the comebacking Emilio Tuason and Jingy Tuason.

When the event winds up on Friday, April 26, two Northwest Airlines business class tickets to United States as well as top-of-the-line items from Bridgestone/Tourstage, Cleveland, Hogan, Adams, Never Compromise, Ogio, Kasco and Greg Norman Apparel and gift certificates from Discovery Suites and Le Soleil in Boracay will be raffled off.

Registration ends this week at all Pacsports outlets located at the Wack Wack, Manila Golf, Alabang, Capitol Hills, Valley, Malarayat Robinson's Galleria, Festival Mall and Legaspi Village. Entry fee is P2,500 inclusive of a practice round.

Those in the championship class will play 72 holes and the others 36 holes. Interested players may also call Pacsports at 817-5872 for more information.

Ucap tilt begins tomorrow

SUBMISSION of weights for the Mandaluyong Coliseum's 9th Ucap San Pedro GP Bacolod Group 7-Cock Derby' is set today, (April 15) from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

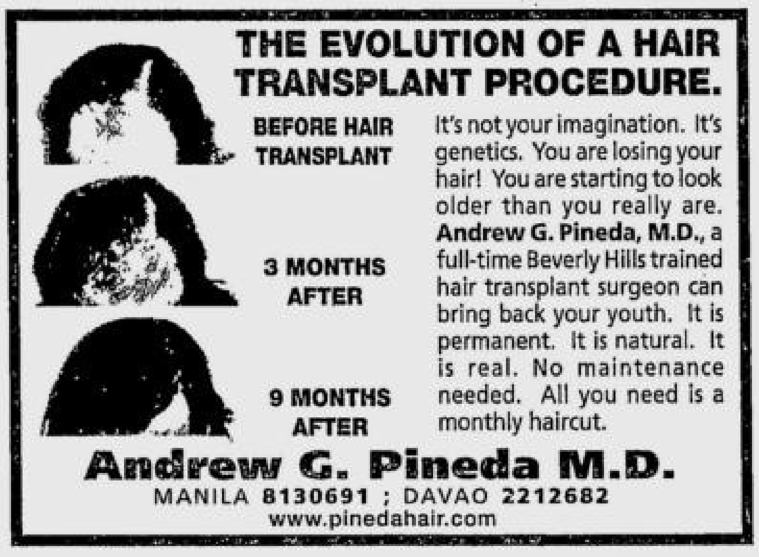
Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug are sponsoring the event.

The derby, set for tomorrow and on Thursday (April 16 and 18), will be hosted by Pampanga's well-known cockers Jet Fernando and Ramon Mansenares and the Bacolod Group.

Last week, engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB) topped the "8th UCAP Bumble Bee Balbina Roadmaster 7-Cock Derby" by posting six wins and one loss.

What A guy GF—Ban of businessman-sportsman Vic Yu and Arnold Mendoza was solo runner-up finisher with 5.5 points.

For other inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.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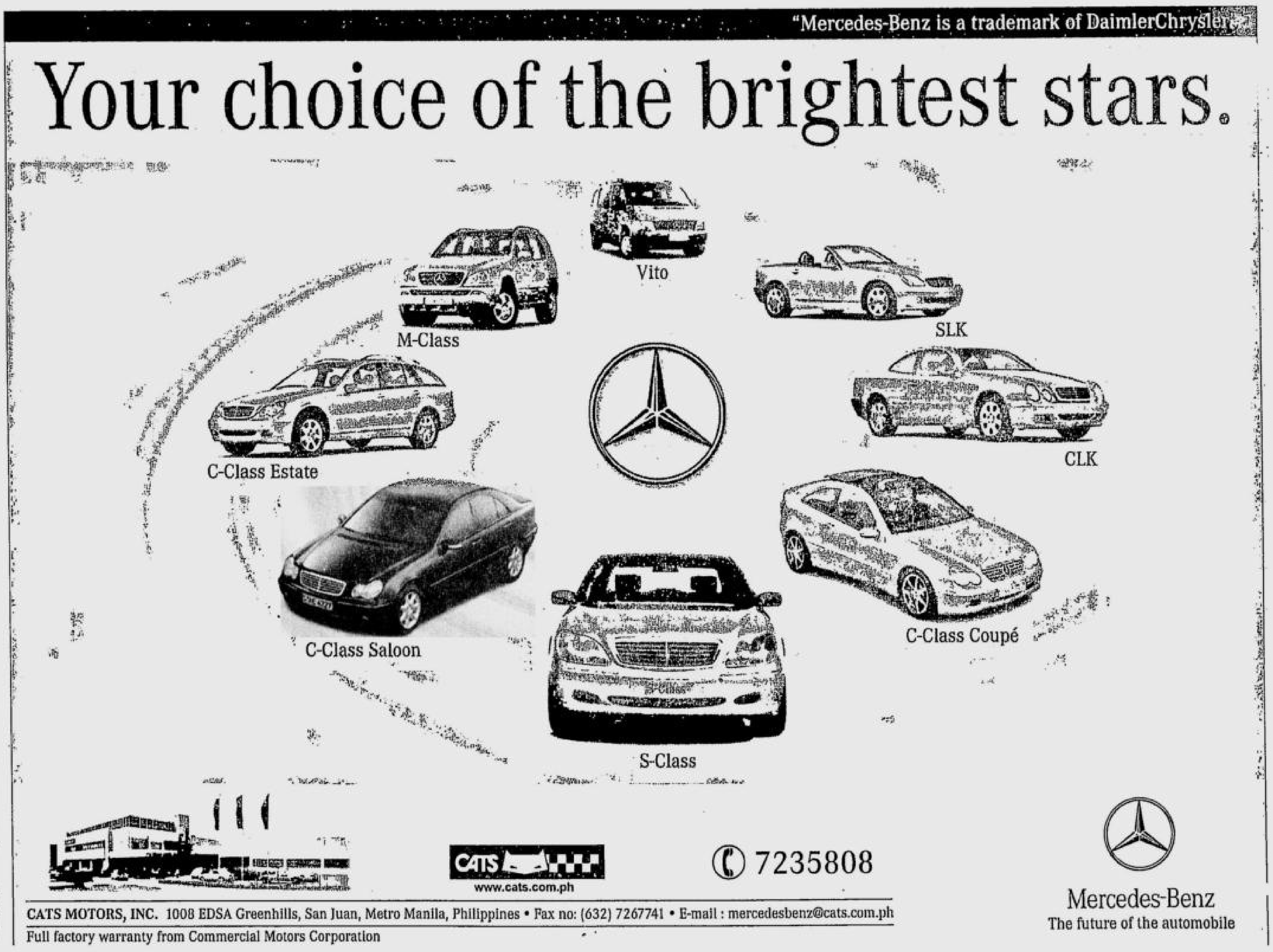
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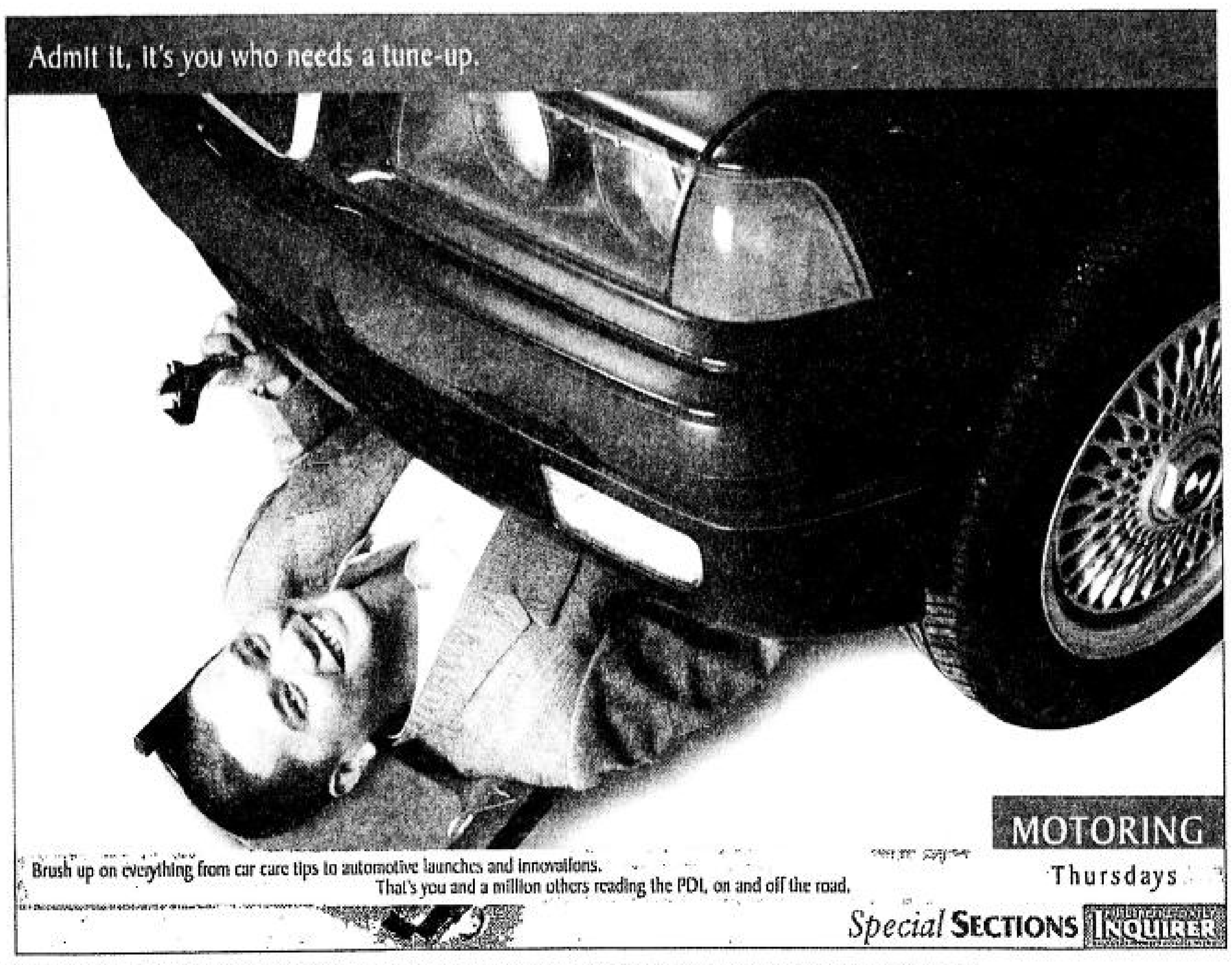
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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.0486, SERIES OF 2002

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Stabbing triggers heart attack

RETIRED Air Force soldier Cesar Andrade, 55, suffered a heart attack and died when he saw blood gushing from a stab wound in his hip early Saturday morning in a Pasay City bar. Police said his friend Samuel Fernandez stabbed Andrade during an argument, but San Juan de Dios Hospital doctors said the victim died of an apparent heart attack. *Alcuin Papa*

Canteen worker dies on table

JOSEPH L. Mapa had been working in a canteen behind the Philpost building at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila for just one week when an unidentified man stabbed him repeatedly during a quarrel Saturday. Detective Athos Lim de Quiros said the culprit ran away while Mapa ran into the compound behind the building and collapsed on a table where he was later found dead. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Woman in BMW shot nurse over husband's mistress, police say

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE WOMAN suspected of shooting dead a private nurse in a middle class subdivision in Las Piñas City on Friday night was questioning the nurse about the alleged mistress of her (suspect) husband but did not intend to kill the nurse, police said yesterday.

Mary Beth Lopez, 57, might have accidentally shot and killed Belma Andrada, 43, while she was trying to force the nurse into squealing on her husband's alleged extra-marital affairs, said SPO4 Ben Javier.

"I think she had no intention of killing the nurse," Javier told the INQUIRER yesterday. "It was accidental."

He said that before the killing happened, Lopez had suspected that the family's aides had been trying to keep her husband's alleged illicit affair from her.

"She thinks the people around her trusted only her husband," Javier said, quoting people close to the Lopez family.

While she was in a tinted BMW sedan parked near BF Resort International Village in Las Piñas, Lopez allegedly. threatened to shoot Andrada with a Glock .99-mm pistol if the nurse would not reveal the whereabouts of the supposed mistress of Lopez's husband, police said.

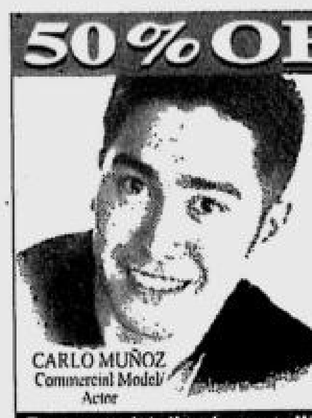
Javier said the gun, which had a small safety trigger, might have gone off accidentally and hit Andrada in the chest. Andrada died while she was being rushed to a hospital.

Lopez, a resident of Ayala-Alabang in Muntinlupa, is still at large. None of her relatives is coordinating with police on the investigation, according to Javier.

Earlier, Lopez's bodyguard and driver, Wences Tablang, of Brickstoneville, Camarin, Caloocan City, said he was supposed to drive Lopez and her husband in the couple's BMW to where Lopez lives.

Tablang told police Lopez had wanted to talk to Andrada. He said they chanced upon Andrada at the corner of Elizalde Street and Tropical Avenue at BF International Resort village about 7:30 p.m. on Friday and the Lopez woman had a heated argument with the nurse.

The argument ended when Lopez pulled a gun and fired at Andrada once, police said.



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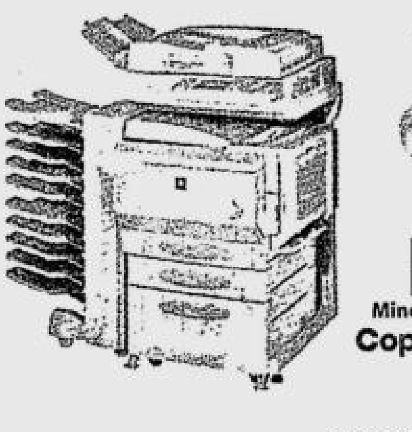
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'Martilyo Gang' suspected in Bulacan rob-slay

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police officials here believe a Manila-based robbery-holdup group is responsible for the pawnshop robbery in Meycauayan town on Saturday, where three policemen, including the deputy police director, and a police aide were killed.

Police suspect the group known as Martilyo Gang, because of their use of hammers to break jewelry glass cases during their heists, robbed the New Life Jewelry Store along McArthur Highway in this town of about P10 million in jewelry and cash.

Killed during the robbery were Senior Insp. Jose Valdez, Meycauayan deputy police director and chief of the local police's traffic section, SPO3 Emmanuel Arce, SPO3 Sozimo Jocson, and police aide Fortunato Culiana.

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña said witnesses told police the 10 to 20 armed men spoke a Visayan dialect. Members of the Martilyo Gang are known to speak in Visayan.

Acuña said the group's operation in Meycauayan was similar to several robbery incidents in Metro Manila jewelry stores that were attributed to the Martilyo Gang, which is supposedly composed of dismissed soldiers and policemen and which usually victimizes jewelry stores. The group is also known to operate in teams.

Acuña said one team would ransack the jewelry store while several other teams would act as lookouts and blocking forces to prevent policemen from pursuing them.

Although Acuña noted that the suspects did not break the jewelry display cases in the New Life Jewelry Store, he said the strategy was typical of the style of "military hoodlums" who ensure that police stations are guarded and that the movements of policemen were carefully studied.

The suspects were in a Mitsubishi L-300 van and a Toyota Revo, and sped toward Valenzuela City and Marilao, Bulacan.

Acuña said the Philippine National Police would honor the slain policemen for their bravery during necrological services set this week. He said the PNP would also extend financial assistance to the families of the victims.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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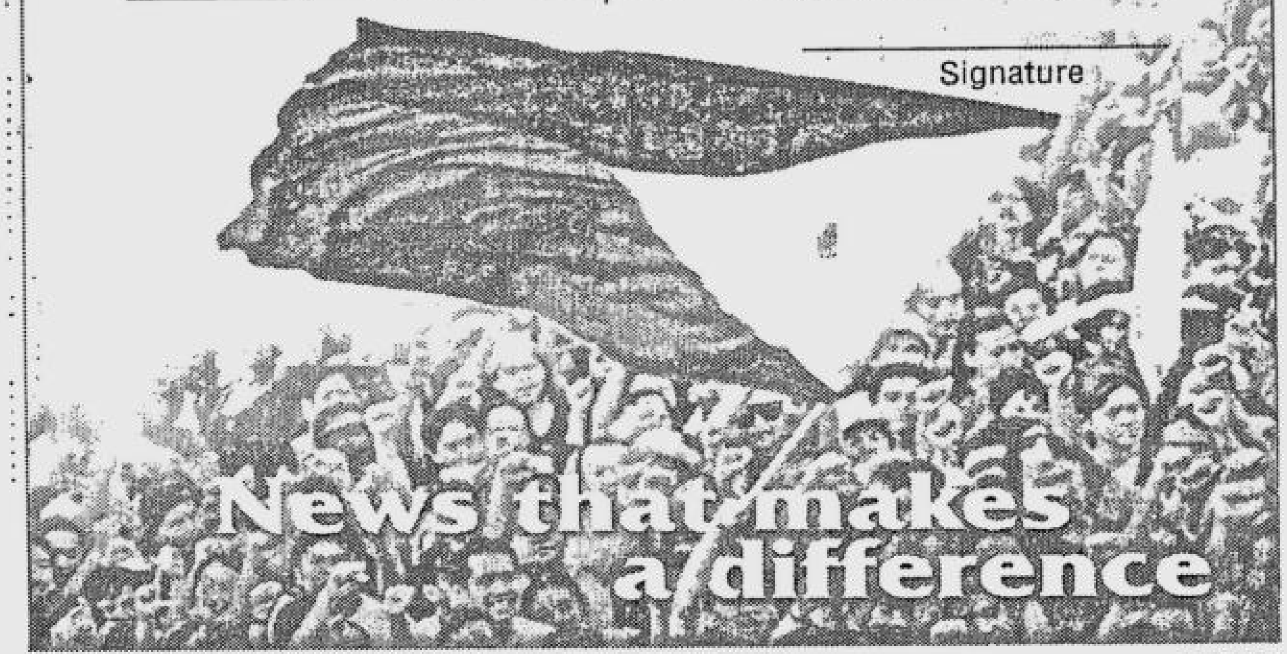

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Marikina: You've got to believe in magic

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE is, in the heart of Marikina City, a shining monument to communism.

It's actually a well-sculpted full figure of a man, magnificent and defiant,. his left fist clenched and raised to the sky. The tall pedestal nestling the fixture is painted glaring red, and loudly embellished with Lenin's hammer and sickle and the very familiar stars on the flag of the People's Republic of China.

It's actually a monument to *Ka* Popoy Lagman, according to former Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando.

This was early last Tuesday evening. BF, as Fernando has come to be known around the once-messy shoe town that he has transformed into a neat, coordinated, disciplined and very pleasant capital, said Marikina regards Lagman as a hero.

He brought peace to the labor front here, Fernando explained.

Of course, imposing as Ka Popoy's monument is off a main city avenue, Lagman is not the lone heroic figure being honored in Marikina. There are other monuments for members of the working class, like the simple street sweeper, the shoe-maker, the baker, the factory worker and the like.

The statues, massive and muscular, lurk all over the city.

***

But why the empty pedestals on other street corners?

Those are for future heroes, Fernando said. This is to remind everybody in town, he added, that they do not have to be a Ka Popoy to be enshrined; all they need is do their share in the continuous betterment of the city.

Fernando swore there are a lot of other heroes out there, but all they need is a challenge and assurance. And inspiration and guidance, too.

You've got to see it to believe how the former smelly town, once made more famous by the red-light district of Calumpang than by its world-renowned hand-made leather shoes, has been transformed into a model city.

Marikina today is very much unlike its neighbors.

It doesn't have the garbage of Quezon City, the traffic and chaos of Mandaluyong, the muck and stench of Caloocan, the quagmire of Pasay.

***

Marikina, of course, doesn't have the glitz of Makati.

But you leave clearly convinced it has been touched by one caring, firm, hard-driven magical hand.

OK. Before Tuesday, the best we had heard of Marikina was the Riverbanks, the lengthy, vast edge of the Marikina River, a former garbage dump which has been cleared and converted into a quiet, well-planned commercial area, complete with jogging lanes, mini-parks, eateries, a floating stage and a movable bridge.

Before Tuesday, we were unaware of how the old Provident Village had been freed of the devastating killer floods that regularly wrecked it in the past.

The U-Tex compound, foreclosed by a bank, was saved from sinking into a cold and flat memorial park. It's now a beehive of activity, with a hotel patronized by amazed expatriates, shopping and entertainment stalls, and an expansive pub reminiscent of dream-like waiting posts in European train stops.

The biggest stunner, however, is the city proper itself. The streets are clear of sidewalk vendors. Market booths are in place, neatly coordinated. There are no obstacles whatsoever on the neat sidestreets.

From the main avenues, inner streets lead unimpeded all the way to the river area. There are no dead-ends, and bike lanes have started to be laid out and are nearing completion, along all the many winding creeks.

***

Bayani Fernando, whose lovely wife Maridel has succeeded him as city mayor, would not say all these that are happily happening to Marikina were part of his dream.

But to the amazed visitor, Marikina and its quiet, dignified progress is something he could only dream of to happen in his own place.

For example, tall walls around school buildings have been knocked down, the surrounding areas lighted. They don't hire security guards, but the city administration has a strict ordinance: Nobody sleeps in school and government premises. It's also the duty of every citizen to promptly call the police emergency number the moment they notice something moving inside or around these buildings at nighttime.

The ploy has been very effective. There have been no burglaries in those specific places.

The city does not rely on the MMDA to operate its traffic signal lights.

Marikina has been collecting and managing, quietly, efficiently, its own garbage.

It's not your kind of a metropolitan city. It's a dream place.

And you could feel the gladness, the accompanying pride in the sure, light steps of residents out in the well-lighted main streets.

It's hard to tick off all the amazing info about Marikina in one sitting.

What's rather puzzling though is why our government has not bothered to borrow the style and philosophy of the man who has made his once sleepy town the envy of all others around it.

Maybe our national decision makers don't believe in miracle workers?

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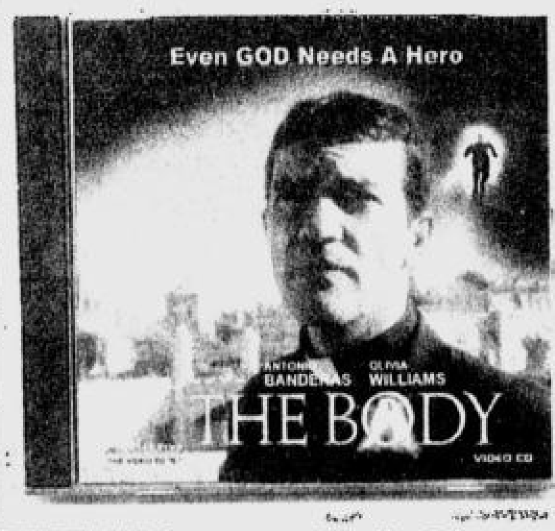

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

26 years and a glass of water

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAD the chance to sit down with Cito Beltran on his ANC lunch-time chat show, "Straight Talk," last Thursday.

He is such a personable host and he has that rare quality that makes you feel you are genuinely being listened to, not being judged but just being given the floor to freely discuss yourself and your ideas.

The show is patterned after Larry King's eponymous live show on CNN. There are no frills. It's almost like a radio show, just conducted in video.

It's a gift to be able to draw out your guests, most especially when they aren't comfortable discussing themselves (not that it will ever be my problem). Cito's questions dealt with the mundane and trivial, to the deeper, more self-revelatory ones. It made me miss having my own talk show, but who knows, right? I have faith that door will always be open to me.

Cito told me they received the highest number of phone-in questions during my stint. After our hour together, I genuinely felt that we made a connection. He is an active member of their Christian community and I was enveloped in the sincerity of his intentions while he prayed over me after our show.

3 good men

Seventy percent of the questions were about my "love life". Quite a few women asked when I was getting married, to which I replied, "When Boy Abunda purchases his Versace tuxedo to walk me down the aisle, then we'll know that event is imminent."

Most asked if there was any truth behind the rumors linking me to Troy Montero. A couple asked about Carlos Agassi. I guess some of the callers had seen our Rico Yan Youth Foundation benefit episodes on "Game KNB" because they asked about Bobby Yan.

All three men are charming, driven, genetically blessed, family-oriented athletic, amusing conversationalists and, most significant in my book, with good heads on their shoulders and good values. Any girl would proudly admit if any of them were her boyfriend. Unfortunately, I don't have that privilege.

We all know that nothing in life is ever a sure thing. Circumstances can and do change with the "will of the wind". The situation might be favorably different in the next few months. Maybe not with any of those names I've mentioned, but possibly with someone possessing a quality even beyond the ideals I'd listed above.

A simple act

That "quality" I saw up close last Sunday during our family lunch at my mom's house. It was evidenced by nothing profound, just a glass of ice-cold water. I hope my sister Ballsy, our family's *Ate* and her husband Eldon, don't mind my sharing a bit of their life with you.

We were winding down and I was getting ready to leave for "The Buzz." Eldon got up from the dining table and came back with a glass of ice-cold water that he placed with no fuss in front of my *Ate*. It seemed my *Ate* took a sip from what was left in my brother-in-law's glass. He noticed that she'd emptied the glass and in anticipation of her possibly wanting more water, he got up and re-filled it.

That simple act, making your loved one's needs a priority, is what loving and a life-long commitment is all about. My *Ate* and Eldon have been married nearly 18½ years, but Eldon was my *Ate*'s boyfriend as far back as when I was 5 years old, when they both had no choice but to sit in front of my blackboard and play-act as my students during "teacher-teacher". That means they have in essence been a part of each other's lives for the past 26 years.

My *Ate* knows she can rely on Eldon for the big things in life. He was there beside her throughout my dad's incarceration, our US exile, my dad's assassination, my mom's campaign and presidency, the births and rearing of their two sons. His fidelity, trust, compassion, and responsibly looking out for their family's well-being is exemplary.

Little things

They've grown up together, and they already have grey hairs. They've not only made good on their marital vows, they haven't ceased respecting and loving each other.

As I've slowly matured, it's the little things in life I've seen that will truly define us and really glue us together. That's why I felt the depth of emotion that the glass of water symbolized.

Many of us come up to par when we are challenged. Adverse situations do bring out the best in most of us. But day-to-day life is what defines our existence. And as romantic as dozens of roses can be, and as extravagantly pampered jewelry can make us feel, and who wouldn't love a cruise or an Amanpulo vacation, I'm going to hold out for something simple.

I'm going to keep praying for the man who will be reliable; that after more than 25 years of sharing a life with me, he will, with no effort, simply and lovingly bring me my glass of water.

Focus on living Filipino artists

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT the Pagdadalamhati ng Bayan (Necrological Service) for the recently departed National Artist **Levi Celerio** at the CCP last Wednesday morning, we found a capacity crowd filling the orchestra section of the Main Theater. We've attended state services for national artists at the same venue before, but the reaction to Celerio's passing was different, more intense and personal.

This must have been because the lyrics he wrote perfectly captured Filipino's attitudes, thoughts and feelings, and because his beautiful songs have become part of our lives.

While we were gratified to see so many admirers of Levi Celerio gathered at the CCP, we remembered what a hard life he had lived. He was very talented, but he received precious little encouragement and support when he was still alive.

Now that he was gone, people belatedly realized how much they had lost with his passing, and they hastened to make up for that by giving him a fervent, elegant farewell.

That was fine, but we told ourselves that, from here on in, we would do everything in our power to make our other outstanding artists feel appreciated and loved *while they are still alive.*

If you feel the same way, here's what we can do: Each of us should choose one living artist to thank or help. Make that artist know how much you appreciate his work and art, and be of service to him in any way you can, so that he can develop in his art with fewer difficulties and frustrations.

Love-hate relationship

STARS wouldn't be stars without their fans and the media, but the three-way relationship between those three mutually-dependent groups is decidedly love-hate. Here's the stars' point of view on the troubled and troubling show biz troika:

Julia Roberts: I don't like to be mean to fans, but I have to have cops around me now. The worst is when people come up and just grab you!

Jean Rivers: The paparazzi, they're the worst! They literally want the worst to happen to you—they want to live off your tragedy, your accident, your suicide, your death, even.

Winona Ryder: What's awful about being famous, an actress, and petite is when people come up to you and touch you. That's scary, but they seem to think it's okay to do it, like you're public property.

Julia Ormond: The British are the worst—appalling. **Richard Gere** and **Uma thurman** are old friends and one night they went out to dinner. Uma gets shoved up against a railing by photographers trying to take her picture. She gets a cut above her eye that needs stitches. And his driver gets stabbed in the stomach trying to get them out! What's going on? For what?!

Tony Danza: The videorazzi are the worst. They try to provoke you into bad behavior or even a fight, so they can sell it to "Hard Copy." There ought to be a law!

Drew Barrymore: People follow me around, especially photographers. They want to see who I'm with—like if it's another girl. Or they'll hang around a few hours, to try and see if I'm leaving with the person I arrived with!

Cuban music

AT 10 p.m. today, April 15, the National Geographic Channel's "Revolutionary Rhythms" program focuses on one of Cuba's state-run radio stations, and shows how powerful spiritual and cultural forces, along with African rhythms, have helped stoke the passion in the salsa, santeria, rhumba and conga.

Lyng Chang, a DJ at Radio Tanio, delves into the deep tradition and culture of Cuban music, dancing the conga in the streets, going behind the scenes with local bands, and feeling the true beat of music in Cuba.

The National Geographic Channel may be viewed on Destiny Cable, Las Piñas Cable and Parañaque Cable.

TV 'traffic' report

PROGRAM hosts on TV are moving in and out of shows with unusual agitation these days. **Paolo Bediones** will take a leave from "S-Files" for the months to do his new "Texters" show—that's his fourth show, after "Extra, Extra," "S-Files" and "LG Digital Quiz Show."

Taking his place on "S-File" is—**Richard Gomez**. Goma used to be an ABS-CBN "baby" for years, so his "defection" to GMA 7 is raising a lot of eyebrows.

For her part, **Rosanna Roces** is taking an eight-week leave from "Star Talk." No replacement has been announced.

FPJ donates ₱100,000 for hospital bills of Bobby Gonzales

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ACTION king **Fernando Poe Jr.** reportedly donated P100,000 for the hospital bills of singer and erstwhile vaudeville star **Bobby Gonzales.**

A source close to the action star said FPJ visited Bobby at the Parañaque Medical Center, where the singer has been confined in the intensive care unit for nearly three weeks now.

FPJ and Bobby worked together in Premiere Productions' "Lo' Waist Gang" in the '60s.

Gary V in Australia

GARY Valenciano is on a roll.

He left the country again last week for a series of live performances in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, all in April.

This is Gary's third trip out of the country in only four months. Last month, he was in Germany and Singapore. In May, he will leave for the United States for a series of shows in Atlantic City, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In Germany, he performed with the Powerplay Band with musical director **Mon Faustino** and vocalist **May Ann Casal** at the Frankfurt Mussik Messe, the largest music trade fair in the world. The group was flown to Germany by Sennheiser, the leading microphone brand. Gary lent his name to a limited edition of the microphones. He is the first singer to have his signature stamped on a Sennheiser microphone.

During the Sennheiser conference in Berlin, the Gary V. limited edition evolution series microphone won as best special project in the world for marketing excellence. It bested eight entries in the Asian region and also won over 90 projects in 15 regions. It bested a project of **Madonna**'s concerts in the Czech Republic and Portugal, Sting in Central Europe, Backstreet Boys at the Superbowl in USA and a **Paul McCartney** event in the United Kingdom, among others.

Part of the proceeds of the Gary V project for Sennheiser goes to a cause close to his heart, Unicef, the worldwide organization which appointed him ambassador of goodwill.

After Germany, he wowed about 3,500 fans in Singapore, in a concert at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. The show marked the release of his "I Will Be Here" album from MCA Universal, which will also be released in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In the local front, Gary recently had his Viva Records debut, "One 2 One," which turned gold upon its initial release (more than 25,000 copies sold). The album's carrier single is "Can We Just Stop and Talk a While," a revival of a **Jose Mari Chan** original which Gary recorded with rising singer **Kyla.**

Gary also returned to acting as he joined the cast of the GMA 7 soap, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," where he has a semi-regular role.

Gary started the year with a bang when he drew more than 30,000 fans to his open-air New Year's Eve concert at The Fort. Before that, he received the TOYM award for contemporary music, the third awardee from the music industry following **Ryan Cayabyab** and Jose Mari Chan.

For Gary V updates, visit his website at www.gary.com.

VALENCIANO

Erratum

FOLLOWING the publication of my feature, "Graveyard of the stars" in the Metro section (April 13, 2002), a reader who knows the family of **Pops Fernandez** pointed out that Joey is a half-brother of Pops and is not a Fernandez but an Alberto.

Pops' full brother is named Edwin, who visits the grave of their dad, actor **Eddie Fernandez**, at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

The reader said it is Eddie's mother, **Gregoria**, who often visits the grave, and not the actor's ex-wife and Pops' mom, **Dulce Lukban.**

LIFETIME Achievement awardee Eddie Garcia DENNIS SABANGAN

Famas honors filmfest loser 'Bagong Buwan

By Alex Y. Vergara

AFTER losing to Chito Roño's "Yamashita, the Tiger's Treasure" in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival, Marilou Diaz Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" eclipsed the Roño movie by clinching Best Picture and Best Director at the 50th Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences awards held Saturday night at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion.

"Finally, I can say we now have a Best Picture trophy," said producer Margie Moran. "Not only do we have the best movie, but [we have] a good movie about Central Mindanao...This film is particularly significant since it was shown in the aftermath of local and global events. Sadly, wars continue to rage in our midst."

The former Miss Universe and good friend Niña Romualdez co-produced the film with Star Cinema. The movie revolves around the conflict between government and Moro rebels as seen through the eyes of an idealistic Muslim doctor played by Cesar Montano, who lost out to sentimental favorite Armando Goyena ("Yamashita") for Best Actor.

Lorna Tolentino won Best Actress, her second this season, for playing an illiterate mother in Eddie Garcia's "Abakada...Ina." She won the top acting plum for the same role several weeks ago in the Film Academy of the Philippines awards.

"My heart is flying right now," an ecstatic Tolentino said in Filipino. "While I was seated, I was praying 'Lord, please one more.' Thank you very much, Lord."

She shared her victory with fellow nominees, particularly best friend Amy Austria ("Bagong Buwan"). She also acknowledged husband Rudy Fernandez and sons Ralph and Renz.

Veteran actress Caridad Sanchez won Best Supporting Actress ("Bagong Buwan), while newcomer Carlos Muñoz won Best Supporting Actor ("Yamashita"). Sanchez, who came rushing from a shooting in Tanay, Rizal, was unable to personally [illegible]

[illegible] Buwan," won Best Child Actor, while Kristine Mangle won Best Child Actress ("Buhay Kamao").

People behind "Bagong Buwan" also went home with most of the creative and technical awards: Jun Lana and Ricky Lee, Best Screenplay; Eduardo Jacinto, Best Cinematography; Jesus Navarro, Best Editing; Albert Michael Idioma and Rudy Gonzales, Best Sound; and Nonong Buencamino, Best Music.

"Yamashita," the second most awarded film, won three: Best Production Design, Max Paglinawan and Fernan Santiago; Best Special Effects, Roadrunner Network Inc.; and Best Visual Effects, Roadrunner Network Inc.

Aside from a lifetime achievement award given to veteran actor-director Eddie Garcia, people behind Famas also gave special awards to singer Geneva Cruz (Dr. Ciriaco Santiago Memorial award), novelist Pablo Gomez (Dr. Jose R. Perez Memorial award), Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. (Famas presidential award) and actor Dolphy (Lou Salvador Sr. Memorial award).

Despite experiencing hard times in the movie industry, many stars came in smashing outfits ***(more stories on PDI's Lifestyle and Entertainment pages this week).*** The country's oldest award-giving body, which is composed of a disparate group of individuals belonging to various sectors except perhaps the film industry, apparently believed in making everybody happy.

For her efforts to look like a glamorous 1950s chanteuse, Sunshine Cruz bagged the "Star of the Night" award. The former bold star wore a strapless number with matching gloves by fashion designer Eric Pineda. Cruz earlier did a number with the equally elegant Assunta de Rossi (in an Inno Sotto creation) and cousin Geneva Cruz.

Regine Tolentino went home with the "Face of the Night" title, while Melanie Marquez was chosen "Glamorous Mom of the Evening." The three women were awarded in a separate function [illegible]

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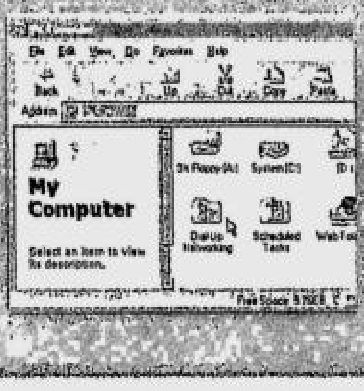
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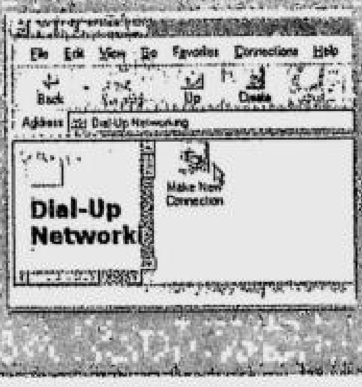
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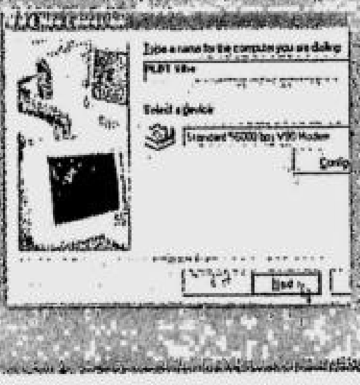
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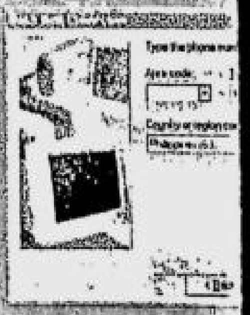
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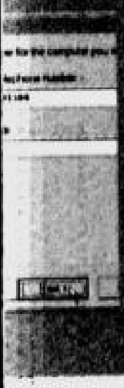
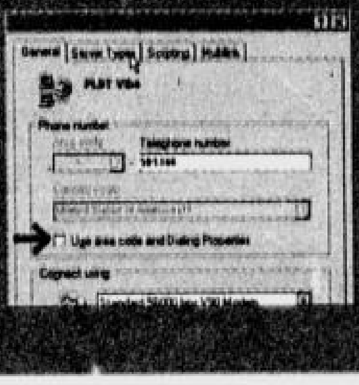


5. Go back to the Dial-up Networking folder and right click on PLDT Vibe Dialer and select "Properties". Uncheck the "Use Area Code and Dialing Properties" check box.



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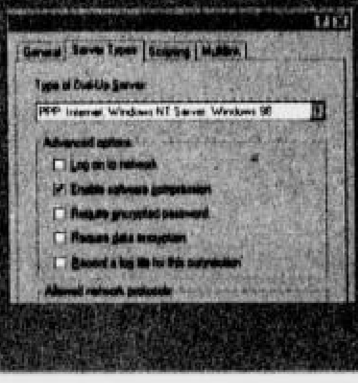
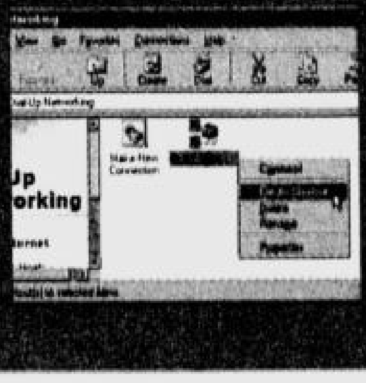
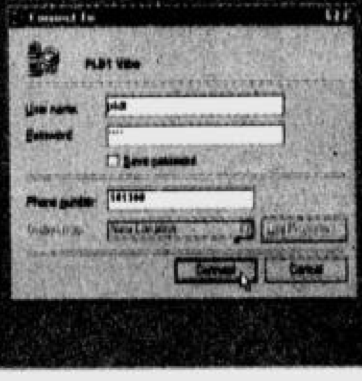


7. Right click on the PLDT Vibe dialer again and select "Create Shortcut". When asked, click "Yes" to create the shortcut on your Desktop.



8. To start surfing, double-click on the "shortcut to PLDT Vibe" dialer icon on your Desktop. Then enter "pldt" on the username field and "vibe" on the password field on the dialer then click on the "connect" button.



9. As soon as you are connected to PLDT Vibe, just click on your browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator) to start surfing.

To access PLDT Vibe, all you need are:

- PC OR LAPTOP
- Modem (56K modem is recommended)
- Postpaid PLDT residential phone

For more information, call 171 (for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao), or 1-800-1-888-9090 (for North and South Luzon).

*PLDT Vibe e-mail addresses available on May 16, 2002

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	S2PID LUV
2	ICE AGE
3	SHOWTIME
4	BLADE 2
5	HART'S WAR
6	S2PID LUV
7	E.T.
8	TIME MACHINE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	S2PID LUV
2	HART'S WAR
3	SHOWTIME
4	BLOW DRY
5	BLADE 2
6	MONTE CRISTO
7	E.T.
8	ICE AGE
9	MIMIC 2
10	S2PID LUV

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	S2PID LUV
2	MONTE CRISTO
3	SHOWTIME
4	HART'S WAR
5	E.T.
6	S2PID LUV
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	MIMIC 2
10	TIME MACHINE
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	CROSSROADS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SHOWTIME
2	ICE AGE
3	BLOW DRY
4	HART'S WAR
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	E.T.
7	MIMIC 2
8	CROSSROADS
9	S2PID LUV
10	S2PID LUV
11	TIME MACHINE
12	BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6320401

1	CROSSROADS
2	HART'S WAR
3	SHOWTIME
4	BLADE 2
5	ICE AGE
6	MIMIC 2
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	TIME MACHINE
9	S2PID LUV
10	MONTE CRISTO
11	S2PID LUV
12	E.T.

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	S2PID LUV
4	E.T.
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	HART'S WAR
7	SHOWTIME
8	MIMIC 2
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8060888

1	BLOW DRY
2	ICE AGE
3	HART'S WAR
4	SHOWTIME
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	TIME MACHINE
7	S2PID LUV
8	BLADE 2
9	E.T.
10	MIMIC 2

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1	JOHN Q
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
4	ICE AGE
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	E.T.
7	S2PID LUV
8	MONTE CRISTO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JOHN Q
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	S2PID LUV
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7	CLOSED
8	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	BANDITS
4	ICE AGE
5	MAJESTIC
6	S2PID LUV

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	HART'S WAR
2	E.T.
3	S2PID LUV
4	SHOWTIME

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	HART'S WAR
3	S2PID LUV

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	HART'S WAR
2	SHOWTIME
3	S2PID LUV
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	S2PID LUV
3	E.T.
4	SNAKE CHARMER
5	ICE AGE
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777

All Digital Sound

G1 GP Great Price (GLORIETTA 1)

1	S2PID LUV
2	HART'S WAR
3	BLADE 2
4	SHOWTIME

G4 (GLORIETTA 4)

1	ICE AGE
2	E.T.
3	THX HART'S WAR *12:30 pm, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30* GUARANTEED SEATS
4	BLOW DRY
5	MIMIC 2
6	SHOWTIME
7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

GB1 Art Film (GREENBELT 1)

1	BEFORE NIGHT FALLS
2	HART'S WAR
3	SHOWTIME
4	Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 19, 20, 26 & 27 8:00 PM

ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)

1	THX SHOWTIME
2	HART'S WAR
3	ICE AGE
4	E.T.
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	BLADE 2
2 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHOWTIME
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	HART'S WAR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	E.T
8	S2PID LUV
9	MIMIC 2
10	CROSSROADS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	ITLOG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	HARI NG SELDA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HART'S WAR
5	CROSS ROADS

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3	S2PID LUV
4	HARTS WAR
5	SHOWTIME
6	E.T.
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	SHOWTIME

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	ITLOG
A	SHOWTIME

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARTS WAR
2	S2PID LUV
3	
4	HARI NG SELDA

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	HARTS WAR
2	
3	
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	HARI NG SELDA
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
8 (SDDS)	BLADE 2
9 (DOLBY)	BLOW DRY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	S2PID LUV

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	S2PID LUV
2	S2PID LUV
3	HARI NG SELDA
4 (SDDS)	HARTS WAR
5	ITLOG
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
8	ICE AGE
9	TIME MACHINE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	RESERVE
4	ICE AGE
5 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	RESERVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4	HARI NG SELDA
5 (SDDS)	HARTS WAR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	S2PID LUV

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	S2PID LUV

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

FTI MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	HARI NG SELDA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HARTS WAR
2	SHOWTIME
3	CLOSED
4	S2PID LUV
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	S2PID LUV
2	ITLOG

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
4	CROSSROADS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DOLBY)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 (DTS)	CROSSROADS
4	BLADE 2

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	E.T.
2	S2PID LUV
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	S2PID LUV
2	MAJESTIC
3 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 (DTS)	E.T

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	S2PID LUV
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	HART'S WAR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	CROSSROADS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	S2PID LUV
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	ITLOG

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	S2PID LUV
3	E.T.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	BIBINGKA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ITLOG
2	S2PID LUV
3	HARI NG SELDA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ITLOG
2	BEAUTIFUL MIND
3	BANDITS
4	JOHN Q

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	MAJESTIC
4	BANDITS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING
On alert. On patrol. On camera.
SHOWTIME

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	BLADE 2
2	ICE AGE
3	HARTS WAR
4	SHOWTIME
5	S2PID LUV
6	MONTE CRISTO
7	BLOW DRY
8	E.T.
9	TIME MACHINE
10	CROSS ROADS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	HARTS WAR
2	E.T.
3	MONTE CRISTO
4	BLADE 2
5	S2PID LUV
6	BLOW DRY
7	SHOWTIME

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	SHOWTIME
2	ICE AGE
3	SHOWTIME
4	E.T.
5	BLADE 2
6	S2PID LUV
7	TIME MACHINE
8	MIMIC 2

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	HARTS WAR
2	ICE AGE
3	BLOW DRY
4	E.T.
5	BLADE 2
6	TIME MACHINE
7	S2PID LUV
8	SHOWTIME

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BLADE 2
2	HARTS WAR
3	SHOWTIME
4	E.T.
5	S2PID LUV
6	BLOW DRY

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	E.T.
2	JOHN Q
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	WE WERE SOLDIERS

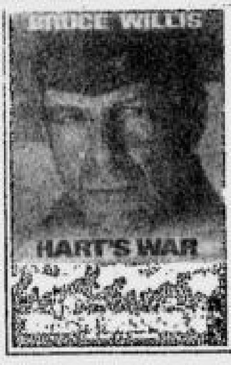
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	MONTE CRISTO
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	JOHN Q
4	SHIPPING NEWS
5	S2PID LUV
6	E.T.

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	MAJESTICS
2	BANDITS
3	BLADE 2
4	S2PID LUV
5	E.T.
6	

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.



Late Night Screening

on
April 12 & 13, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Fund-raising show for Pasig River

THE CLEAN and Green Foundation presents a night of enchanting music with the concert, "Muling Aawit ang Pasig."

The fund-raising concert is also a public awareness campaign for the Pasig River.

The concert will feature Vernie Varga, Jaya, Kyla, Geneva Cruz, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Anna Fegi and Francis Magalona. Floy Quintos directs.

The concert is produced by GMA 7 with Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Tickets are available at the 2/F FEBTC Intramuros Building III, Muralla corner Solana sts., Intramuros, Manila or at the Orchidarium, Teodoro F. Valencia Circle, Rizal Park.

Call 528-0504/ 527-4390 or 527-6378 to 79.

Sheryl Crow, artist for April of 99.5 RT

99.5 dwRT turns up the volume loud for the return of artist Sheryl Crow, who is the station's artist pick of the month for April.

The singer's latest song, "Soak Up the Sun," is now being played constantly on the station. The track is lifted from Crow's CD, "C'mom, C'mon," released under MCA Universal Music.

Also featured in its programming for April are music trivia that fans would be interested to know about Crow.

The music of Crow has long reflected the musical passions that inspired her back when she was growing up in Missouri. From her breakthrough album, "Tuesday Night Music Club" in 1994 to her self-titled release in 1996 to "Globe Sessions" in 1998, Crow has continued to explore her passions and define her distinctive voice, staking her fertile turf as singer and songwriter.

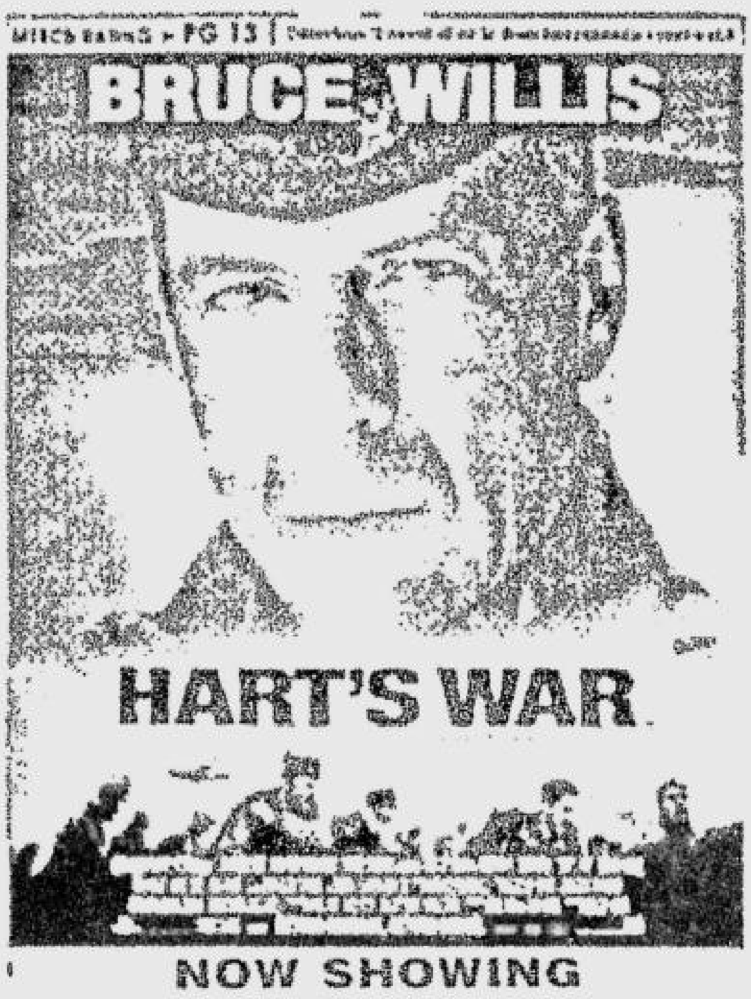
After years of hard work, Crow has earned her own niche in the international music industry, with sold out shows, 13 million records sold and five Grammy awards.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

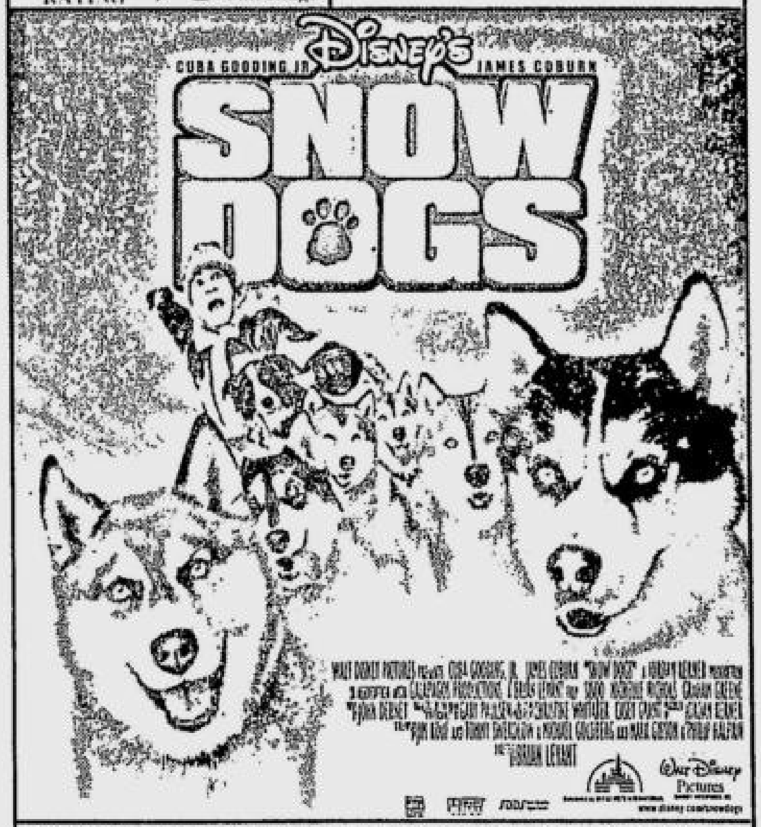
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HART'S WAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHOW TIME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BLOW DRY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	SHOWTIME
ODEON-2	HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	ITLOG
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-2	E.T
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-8	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARTS WAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHOW TIME
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-14	E.T.
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	E.T.
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1
SHOWTIME
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
P13
CINEMA 2
E.T.
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
GP
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-0573

MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM APRIL 18, 2002 MS. GAY PHILIPPINES 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

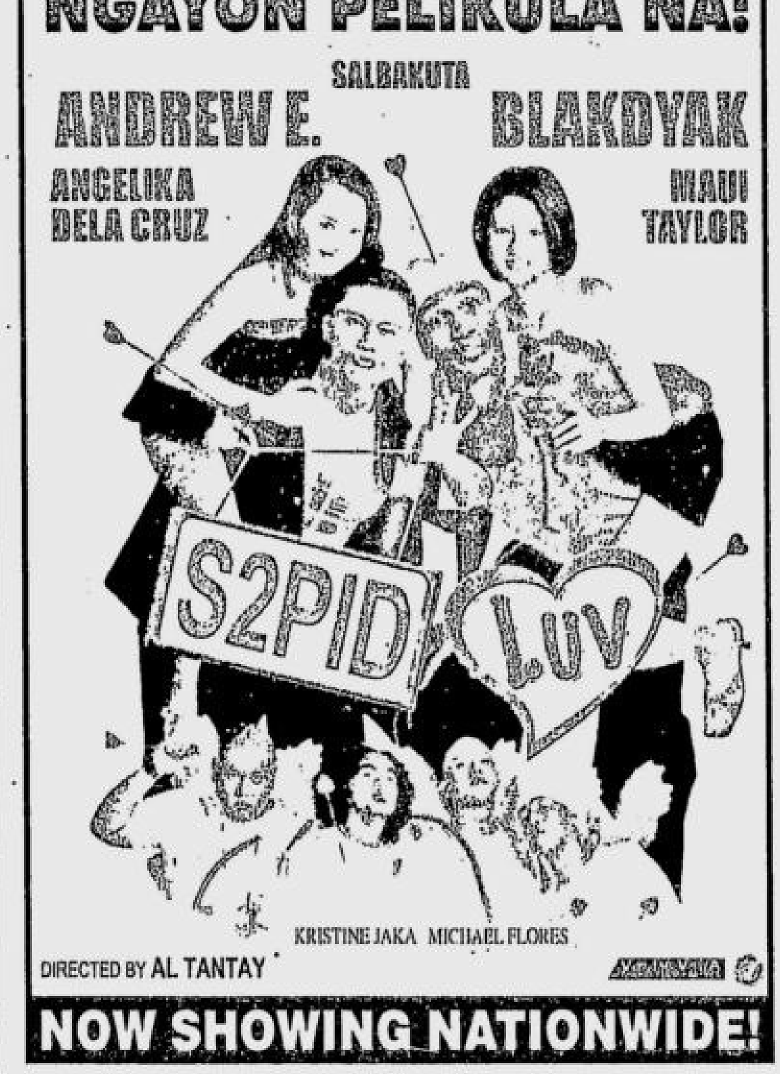

BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR
NOW SHOWING

#1 COMEDY HIT IN THE U.S.!
THE DOGS ARE OUT APRIL 17!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED

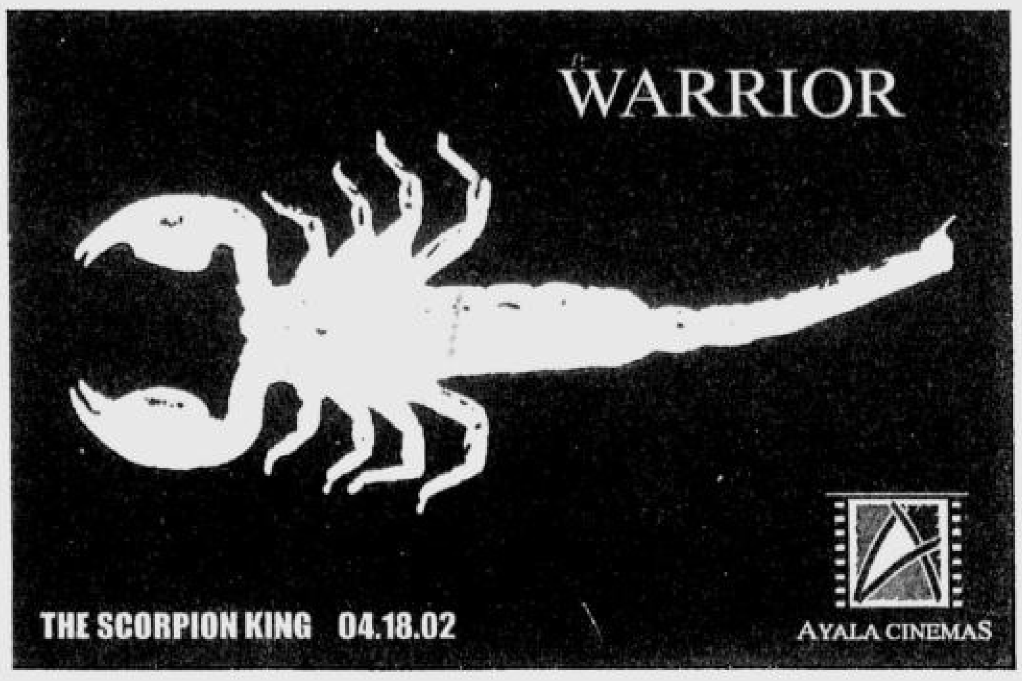


Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG NGAYON PELIKULA NA!



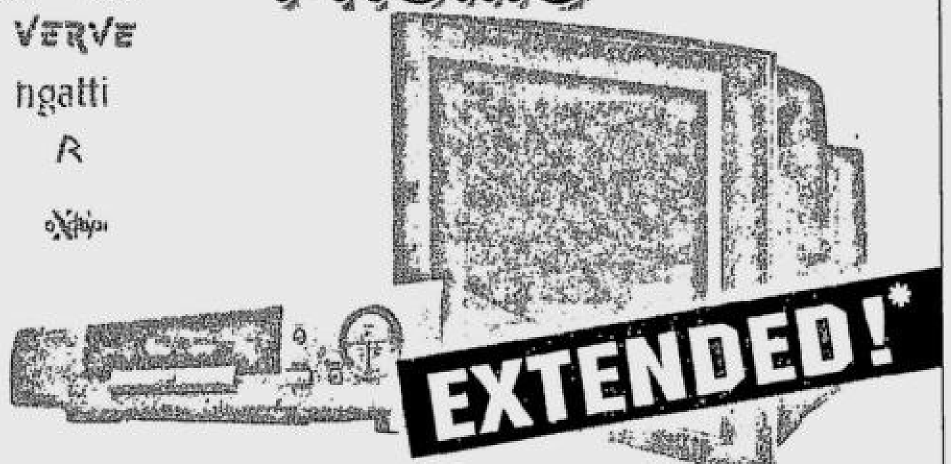
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE!



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
NOW SHOWING
Javier Bardem Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn
"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer
"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview
WINNER!
Best Male Lead , 2001 Independent Spirit Awards
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor , 2000 Venice International Film Festival
Best Actor (Bardem), 2000 National Board of Review
Best Actor (Bardem), 2001 National Society of Film Critics
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults
WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

STARCONCERTS presents
Ogie
One Night Only
with a special performance by
Ms. Regine Velasquez
APRIL 18, THURSDAY, 9 PM
Onstage
2nd level, Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City
Ticket Prices P600 · P900 · P1,200
Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries and reservations call 891-5610

EYE to EYE
HUSH PUPPIES
LIZ CLAIBORNE
JAMES DEAN
FLEXUS
VERVE
FIGATTI
DVD VIDEO
PROMO



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RP seeks compensation from US

$230M for losses from changes in garments quota rules

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is bargaining for $230 million worth of additional garments export quota to the United States up to 2005 to compensate for the losses arising from Washington's decision five years ago to impose new country-of-origin rules on imported textile and clothing.

The amount sought is on top of the regular garments and textile export quota that the country gets from the United States yearly. About 70 percent of the country's total garments and textile exports, which last year amounted to $2.97 billion, are shipped to the United States.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the United States should continue remunerating the Philippines for as long as its imperious rules of origin (ROO) were in effect. The United States had insisted that the compensation given to the Philippines since 1997 was more than enough to cover for the rules' ill effects.

Roxas is batting for the retention of the country's quota flexibility (which allows Philippine exporters to shift from slow-moving to fast-selling garments categories) sanctioned under a memorandum of understanding with the United States. The deal is set to expire this year.

Earlier, the US granted the Philippines a lucrative ($60 million quota hike) compensation package for the impact of the rules of origin on the country's textile and garments exports.

The Philippines and other Asian countries have decried the unilateral moves of the United States on textile imports, including the changes in the labeling of imports and on how US quotas are applied. They said the new regulations served as non-tariff barriers that slowed down their sales to the United States.

The United States decided to change the way it determined the country of origin of exports because an increasing number of garments makers in China were getting around their quota limits by exporting their products through other Asian ports.

Thus, the country of origin of garments and textile is no longer determined based on where the cloth was cut but on where it was stitched and where the fabric was produced. The modified ROO effectively required all Filipino exporters to produce their own yarns and textiles before they could qualify for Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA) quotas.

This rule deprives countries that manufacture garments and textile products from imported yarns the chance to get quota allocations. The modified ROO puts the Philippines at a disadvantage because the country depends heavily on imports for yarns and textile supply.

BSP further tightens policy on bank audits

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will issue a circular requiring banks to replace their external auditors every three years to prevent abuses and fraud, and ensure that accounting integrity is preserved.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board had already approved the circular.

The BSP has been tightening its rules on banks' hiring of external auditors in light of controversies surrounding the case of Enron Corp. of the United States that involved a wide-scale accounting fraud.

A BSP circular issued in 2000 required banks to hire only external auditors that were accredited by the central bank. So far, only five auditors were accredited: SGV & Co.; Joaquin Cunanan/Pryce Waterhouse; KPMG Laya Mananghaya; Punongbayan & Araullo; and Guzman, Bocaling & Associates. Accreditation is still open to other accounting firms.

The central bank said most banks had adopted prudent practices in hiring external auditors. Many have been replacing their auditors every few years.

But a firm policy had to be issued to compel all banks to adopt prudent measures and prevent fraud, Reyes said.

Banking sources said most irregularities took place in cases where the auditors and the clients had a long-term relationship.

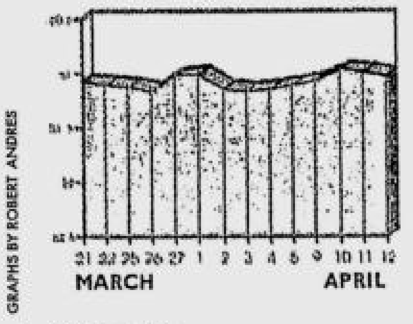
The central bank requires the external

BSP/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



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Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132246	1.000000	50.9950
Japan	Yen	0.008612	0.007606	0.3879
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628850	1.438600	73.3614
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145168	0.128212	6.5382
Switzerland	Franc	0.682446	0.602736	30.7365
Canada	Dollar	0.712867	0.629604	32.1067
Singapore	Dollar	0.616591	0.544573	27.7705
Australia	Dollar	0.604832	0.534188	27.2409
Bahrain	Dinar	3.003466	2.652661	135.2724
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301925	0.266660	13.5983
Brunei	Dollar	0.615585	0.543685	27.7252
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.026053	0.023010	1.1734
UAE	Dirham	0.308279	0.272272	13.8845
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000758	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.883200	45.0388
Brazil	Real	0.499447	0.441112	22.4945
Denmark	Kroner	0.134504	0.118794	6.0579
India	Rupee	0.023187	0.020479	1.0443
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.297960	0.263158	13.4197
Mexico	New Peso	0.124505	0.109963	5.6076
New Zealand	Dollar	0.501704	0.443105	22.5961
Norway	Kroner	0.131097	0.115785	5.9045
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018902	0.016694	0.8513
South Africa	Rand	0.101003	0.089206	4.5491
Sweden	Kroner	0.109903	0.097066	4.9499
Syria	Pound	0.025733	0.022727	1.1590
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032452	0.028662	1.4616
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001332	0.001176	0.0600

Shares fall 0.7%

SHARE prices fell 0.7 percent Friday due to profit-taking and the absence of any good news to pull the market up, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 9.44 points to close at 1,405.34.

"We encountered profit-taking when the market moved up," said Jovis Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

"There is just no catalyst to encourage investors to come in and buy stocks," he said, adding that "investors are just forced to hold on and wait for any other investment alternative to come up."

Turnover fell to 369 million shares worth P530.7 million from 432.13 million shares worth P627.12 million on Thursday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands fell 50 centavos to P66 while SM Prime Holdings Inc. dropped 20 centavos to P6.40.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P10 to P545 while Ayala Land Inc. ended unchanged at P7.20.

Traders said they saw little chance of the market breaking out of its current narrow range trading mode this week, though they said a fall in the main index to below 1,400 points could prompt some mild bargain-hunting.

OFWs remitted $6.2B in '01

FILIPINOS working overseas remitted $6.23 billion to the country last year, a 3.05-percent increase from 2000, the government said Saturday.

Some $3.3 billion was sent home by Filipinos working in North America in 2001, the presidential palace said in a statement. However this was a 17.5 percent reduction from the previous year.

Remittances from Europe also fell by 24.22 percent to $405.1 million, the statement said. Those from Asia, however, registered a 6.18-percent increase to $1 billion.

Remittances from sailors also rose by 17.98 percent to $1.09 billion.

These figures reflect money remitted through official channels and do not cover the huge amounts that are sent home through informal couriers.

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PAL opposes gov't decision to exercise ₱2-B put option

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Air Lines is opposing the decision of the government to exercise its put option on the flag carrier next month, which will cost the airline about P2 billion.

The airline cited financial constraints in justifying its attempts to ditch the six-year deal.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said PAL was resisting the plan of the government and the five state-run financial institutions to exercise their respective put options on PAL over a combined 4.26-percent stake.

Camacho, however, said the government was determined to press PAL to honor the six-year deal.

The put option formed part of a deal signed by the government and Lucio Tan in April 1996 that required Tan to buy at P5 per share the remaining shares of the state in the airline six years after the agreement was signed.

Camacho said the agreement provided that the put option was to be exercised if PAL was in good financial health. But the flag carrier's par value has so far dropped to P1 and its book value was placed at only 33 centavos per share.

PAL is expected to post P1.6 billion to less P1.8 billion in losses this fiscal year starting March, or lower than the estimated net loss of P2.7 billion in last fiscal year's operations. A source said paying P2 billion for the state's remaining stake in PAL would further deplete the airline's resources.

"It is reasonable to assume that if PAL shares are now worth

PAL/ B3

PRANIC COURSE FOR EXECUTIVES

A seminar called Pranic Course for Executives will be held on April 20, 2002, at the ACCEED Center, Benavides St., Legaspi Village, Makati, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The seminar will feature mind and body rejuvenation techniques which the executive can do in a few minutes in the privacy of his office to combat stress and keep his mind sharp all day. Also included are esoteric principles behind prosperity and success and tips in using these principles for the benefit of the executive and his company. Lecturer for the seminar is Master Choa Kok Sui, founder of the art and science of Pranic Healing ("no-touch" healing through use of natural etheric energy).

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Time for an anti-cartel law

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THERE is one reason, and one reason only, why the foreign-owned cement cartel continues to ravage the Filipino consumer: The Philippines does not have an anti-cartel law to speak of. In one clear, simple sentence, the Constitution says cartels—or combinations in restraint of trade—are not allowed. But the implementing law that should give flesh to the constitutional provision has not been passed.

Some years back, a bill was filed in the Senate patterned after the Sherman anti-trust law of the United States. (Cartel is European, trust is American) Some hearings were held, but the bill died in a committee. The chair of that committee was Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Now that she is president, maybe she can have the bill dug up so it can be finally enacted into law.

Why is an anti-cartel law so important? Because cartels set up artificially high prices for their goods or services by prohibiting members from competing with each other. The high prices stifle economic activity.

The cartel restricts competition in various ways. For example, banks here can have an agreement on minimum interest rates. The cement cartel can agree that each plant will sell its production only in the province where it is located. In every case, the idea is for the members of the cartel not to breach the minimum price agreed upon.

The anti-trust atmosphere in the US is one of the greatest success stories of American business. The anti-trust division of the Department of Justice is dreaded for its persistence and its long arm.

No business enterprise—not even the mighty Microsoft—is too big for the anti-trust division. Executives have gone to jail for agreeing to fix prices in dark alleys or smoke-filled hotel rooms.

If the Philippine branches of two American firms were to fix their prices here, the anti-trust division will swiftly bring them to justice. Some years ago, an international conference on nuclear plant insurance was held in Glasgow, Scotland. When the agenda reached the item on pricing, the large American delegation politely excused itself. If the Americans took part in the price agreement, they would all have been bundled off to jail as soon as they returned to the States.

A free and open market is good for everyone. Take the fire insurance business. Decades before World War II, a fire insurance cartel was organized by the British companies, which were the first to open up here. There was nothing secret about the cartel. The rules and the price list (called the tariff) were published in what was called the fire manual. When the insurance law was extensively rewritten in the 1960s, the cartel gained added strength. It was then armed with a government license issued by the Insurance Commission. But by virtue of the Asean Free Trade Agreement, the Insurance Commission finally broke up the cartel about five years ago.

Today, under a sunlit, free and open market, fire insurance is more vibrant than ever before. The insuring public is enjoying the lowest premiums in ages. Some of the world's

QUESTIONS/ B3

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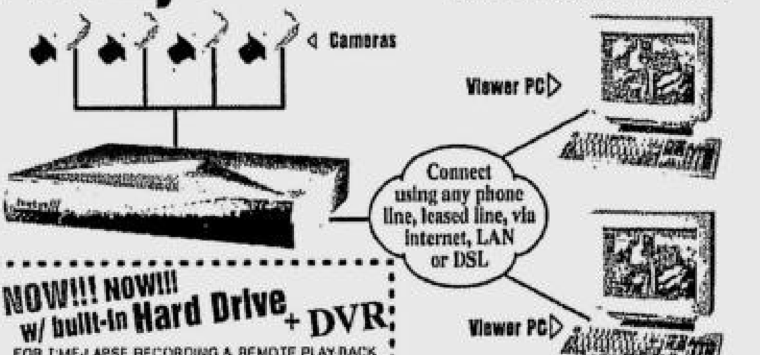
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UOB's malevolent spirits

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE ESPIRITU group has filed a suit to oust their Singaporean principals and retake the United Overseas Bank (formerly Westmont Bank).

The civil claim, filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court late last month, came about after the Bangko Sentral denied approval of some P1.4 billion worth of "bad" receivables that the group of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu would have received from the Singaporeans in exchange for giving up 67-percent control of the ailing Westmont Bank.

Despite being "political loans," those bad receivables turned out to be good/properly collateralized loans upon examination of the Bangko Sentral and the PDIC; the authorities consequently ordered the assets be restored in the bank's books.

It was downhill all the way between the Espiritus and the Singaporeans after that February 2000 Bangko Sentral reversal order.

As spelled out in the leveraged buyout deal with UOB, the Espiritus were hoping to use the collections of the UOB trust department from the P1.4-billion receivables pool to pay for their 33-percent stake in the rehabilitated bank.

That 33-percent bloc was held in trust for the Espiritus by Tan Caktiong and William Tan Untiong of the Jollibee fame, although the Jollibee duo's real stake amounted to only 5 percent of the pie.

To fend off the Espiritus, UOB filed an arbitration claim in Australia to force the Jollibee pair to pay in full the entire subscription price of the 33 percent bloc. The Espiritus, in turn, had to revoke the trust agreement with the Jollibee group to protect themselves and their partners.

Matters came to a head during last year's May 25 stockholders' meeting when intemperate language were exchanged between the Singaporeans and the Espiritu group. The Singaporeans, who were being advised by the Poblador Bautista law firm, managed to fend off the takeover attempt of the Espiritu lawyers from Villaraza Angangco and Accra.

As things stand now, the Singaporeans control six out of 10 board seats of UOB, reflecting their 67-percent stake, with the balance, occupied by lawyers Avelino Sebastian Jr., Victor Lazatin, Ferdinand Domingo and Alfonso Reyno Jr., still held by the Espiritu group.

Espiritu's son, John, actually signed the civil complaint way back in October 2001 but held off the filing amid last-ditch attempts to settle the dispute out-of-court.

The filing fee alone costs a hefty P15 million, for which Espiritu's ex-partners, grains importer Manuel Tanklansee and the Cua family declined to pony up their respective shares.

The litigation for the Espiritus is being handled by Francis Lim of Accra, instead of the well-connected Villaraza Angangco law firm.

Short takes

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed the appeal filed by ex-BIR Commissioner Liwayway Chato, Ana Ugarte, Patricia Cepeda-Sison, and company against the legality of the multibillion-peso garbage contract of Jancom.

* * *

RECO Grandhomes, the Singaporean company that acquired P1.2 billion in Filinvest Land bonds and converted the bonds into FLI shares at below market price, has a total paid-up capital of Singapore $2. This is not a misprint. It's S$2.

Heard through the grapevine

IN response to numerous inquiries received from male readers, the Bay area hotel that has quietly transformed its eighth floor into a "health club" (Cocktales, April 12, 2002) is none other than the Grand Boulevard, formerly the Silahis. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.*

PAL . . .

From page B2

less than P5 per share, we should exercise the option.

The GFIs (government financial institutions) also have to protect their respective financial interests," said Camacho.

The national government accounts for 0.96 percent of the state's combined 4.26-percent stake in the airline, the balance is held by five GFIs.

The five GFIs are the Government Service Insurance System with 1.37-percent stake in PAL; Land Bank of the Phils., 0.69 percent; the Development Bank of the Phils. and the Philippine National Bank with 0.46 percent each; and the AFP-Retirement Service Benefits System, 0.31 percent.

Outgoing DBP president Remedios Macalincag said the bank would exercise the put option. Land Bank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said he was supporting the position of DBP.

But outgoing PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr., a nominee of the taipan, said the bank might consider waiving the option. He supports PAL's position that its weak finances prevent the flag carrier from honoring the deal.

Camacho also stressed that the purpose of having a guarantor was to have someone to assume the responsibility if the direct party could not honor the deal. Tan's flagship firms Fortune Tobacco and Asia Brewery, the guarantors, are profitable companies.

The put option was a compromise between the government and Tan forged in December 1995 when the PAL board called on existing shareholders to infuse a total of P3.4 billion in fresh capital into the airline to finance an ambitious refleeting program.

The government and the five GFIs waived their pre-emptive rights and, in exchange, convinced Tan to enter into a put option deal, which is maturing in May this year.

Tan owns 53.79 percent of PAL. Three other companies controlled by the taipan account for a combined 35.15-percent stake. PAL employees own 2.61 percent of the airline while other private groups hold the remaining 4.19 percent.

From 40 percent in 1995, the government's stake was diluted to its current level after the capital call.

Questions . . .

From page B2

largest insurance companies have come in with new technology. And yet, no Filipino insurance company has shut down, proof of the Filipino businessman's tenacity.

If you think foreign companies will rule the country soon, think again. Some of the foreign companies find the Philippines a tough market to crack. Recently, two life insurance companies have closed down; they just could not make a go here. This is one more proof that the Filipino businessman, fighting in his home ground, can stand up to the best and biggest competitors without government help.

But, you will hear people say that an anti-cartel law will discourage foreign investments. If the foreign investor wants to put up a cartel here, I say we should not let him in. And those who are already here and insist on running a cartel should be shown the door.

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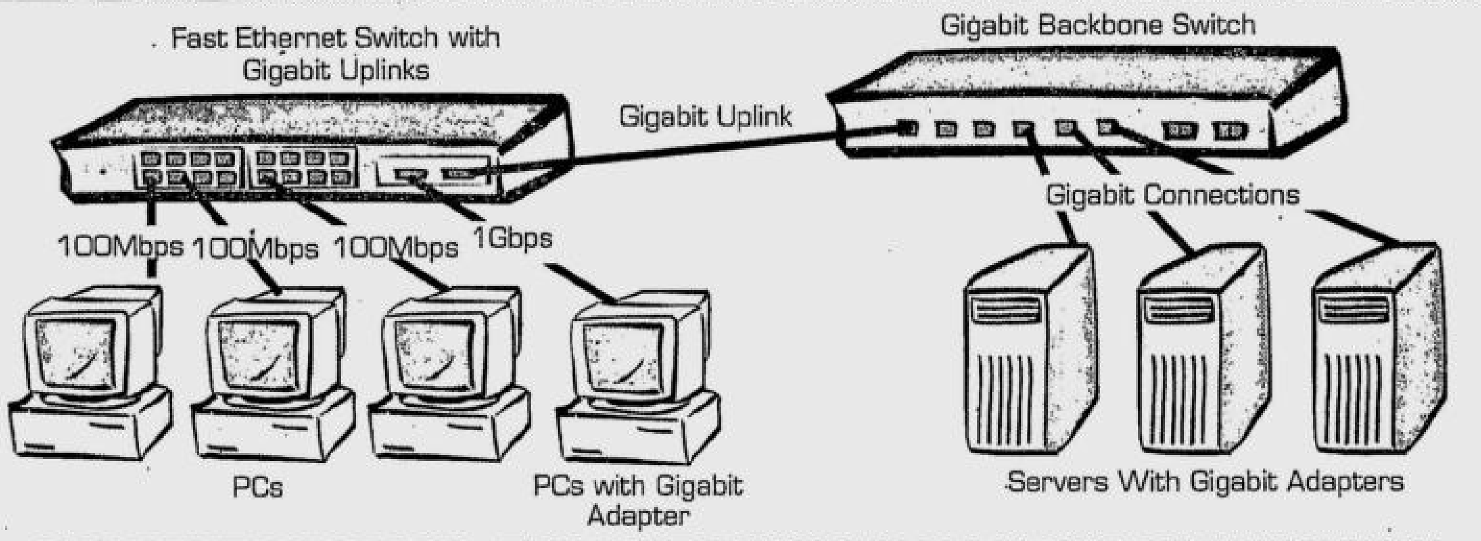

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Orchard "A"/"B"/"C"	220,000/300,000/320,000
Puerto Azul	100,000
Riviera "A"/"B"	185,000/250,000
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Sherwood	100,000
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8	CLUB FILIPINO	220,000.00	-
9	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	190,000.00
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12	FONTANA "D"	90,000.00	-
13	FONTANA "C"	100,000.00	-
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16	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,650,000.00
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27	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	-	350,000.00
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Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	300,000
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Dire consequences of a four-day week

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

A HIGHLY PLACED moll in the government has provided me with highly sensitive but newsworthy information that I feel should be made public. It is not my intention to embarrass those in high office, but the public needs to be aware of the consequences of a four-day week. On the face of it, it seems pretty innocuous, but I have access to the longer-term plan of action. Firstly, people who work on Monday will have their hair dyed blue; those who work on Friday will have their hair dyed green. Born again will be exempted, but dyed again will cause major problems. The color-coding will prevent moonlighting and dishonest people from working both days and claiming overtime.

However, this is only the tip of the iceberg, and the change from Wednesday, May 1, to Monday, April 29, has sinister implications. It was done for political reasons, but if there is no public outcry, the government intends to move Christmas and New Year, which fall on a Wednesday, also to a Monday. So Christmas will fall on Dec. 23 and New Year on Dec. 30. But wait; there is more to come. Providing the Church does not disapprove too strongly, Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday will also be moved to Mondays. This concludes Phase 1.

The next step is to eliminate Wednesdays and Thursdays, leaving a five-day week and the 10-month year. There will be no opposition as people will receive their two-week pay every 10 days, and most of the population will be 50 percent better off. Naturally, production and exports will suffer, but there is no gain without pain.

There will, however, be consequences, which the government has not taken into account. The Philippines already has the highest birth rate in Asia, twice that of Singapore. If the virile Filipino has two extra days with nothing to do, the birth rate will increase from 2.5 percent to 5 percent, which means that the population will double every 14 years. By 2016, there will be 150 million people, by 2030, 300 million, by 2058, 1.2 billion, and by year 2100, 9.6 billion souls. Filipinos will comfortably outnumber the rest of the world and Tagalog will replace English and Chinese. Programs written in French and German will be rewritten in Waray.

The Bangko Sentral will take over the US Treasury, ADB, IMF and the World Bank. The peso will become the currency of choice and stand well above the dollar. There will be a huge demand for low-cost housing, so FLI, ELI, MEG and CMP should do well. Cement will reach P10,000 a bag. SMPH is a must because Henry Sy's great-grandchildren will build hundreds of malls in every town and village. Currently, SMPH grows at a steady 12 percent a year, but with the population doubling every 14 years, the shares should be worth P820. This is an extremely conservative estimate since economics of scale will increase profit margins and earnings dramatically.

There will be a huge demand for oil, and Petron will sign a contract to buy the whole of Saudi Arabia's output, leaving none for the Japanese. Super tankers will enter our ports every five minutes and ICT is going up in anticipation of this. Power will be required in vast amounts so MER, FPH and AEV will benefit. Food companies will be in great demand, but stick to B shares, SMCB and Jollibee. Rice imports will be a major problem, and we will have to buy the entire output of Thailand and Vietnam. To pay for this, plus our oil, we must send at least 1 billion workers overseas, otherwise there will be a terrible balance of payment deficit. Water will be in short supply so buy AC and BPC.

The companies with the greatest growth potential will be hydroponics (growing food in the sea), desalination plants (removing salt from sea water), solar energy and full cells. These companies do not exist yet but get your grandchildren to watch out for the IPOs. The Philippines, downtrodden by 350 years of colonization, will become the most prolific nation in the world and the United States will quake before us. Probably, the UN secretary will be a descendant of Mr. Shoolie.

This is not the first time the calendar has been altered. Pope Pius V suggested modifying the lunar tables, but it was left to his successor, Pope Gregory XIII, to delete 10 days from Thursday, Oct. 4, to Friday, Oct. 15, in 1582. This was essential to prevent the moon from leaving orbit and flying into outer space. The Gregorian legacy was not due to chants.

Unless you want 9.6 billion Filipinos standing toe to toe in our beautiful islands, act now, and say no.

I hope that the PSE does not extend market hours to 4 p.m. Firstly, it is not justified by turnover; secondly, it will increase brokers costs, as they will have to pay overtime to those who work in the back office. Also, 4 p.m. local time is 4 a.m. in New York and 8 a.m. in London, with one market closed and the other not yet open. So it does not make sense. Better to open at 5:30 p.m. to coincide with the opening of European markets and remain open until 3:30 a.m. so as to coincide with the close on Wall Street.

I heard an amusing story. An American software company, which is doing very badly, gave permission to its employees to sell Viagra as a sideline to supplement their income. However, the project was a disaster, probably because of the company's name, Peoplesoft.

(In the unlikely event that anyone wishes to contact me, my email address is still mrbearbull@hotmail.com.)

Cautious trading seen

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL stocks will likely be dominated by cautious trading this week, with investors concerned about events in the Middle East and looking for signs of interest rate movements, analysts say.

"We still have to watch out for events in Israel which could impact on crude oil prices," Jovis Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc. said.

"We will continue to see investors trading fairly cautiously for now. The question right now is whether local interest rates will remain low, continue to decline or start turning up," he added.

Vistan forecast the index would move in a tight range of 1,390 to 1,430 points.

Concerns over the turmoil in the Middle East put a damper on prices last week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell by 1.9 percent, or 27.52 points, over the week to 1,405.34 points on Friday.

Average daily turnover fell slightly to 420.9 million shares worth P563.2 million last week from 421.2 million shares worth P677.64 million the previous week.

"We'll likely continue a tight trading since there seems to be no news that could perk up the market at this moment. The market is still groping for direction," Rolly Pineda, a dealer at First Orient Securities Inc., said.

Pineda said the key index would likely be locked at between 1,380 and 1,430 points.

"We've been trading within a 50-point band during the last four to five weeks," he said.

He noted, however, that foreign investors were still buying selective stocks.

Pineda said declining US stocks were adding to investors' reluctance to get into local equities.

Online stock trading firm 2tradeasia.com recommended selective buying, citing a flat market, and advised investors to look out for market-moving developments that could arise this week during the stockholders' meetings of companies like Equitable PCI Bank Inc., Ayala Land Inc., International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Ayala Corp.

Moody's rates PLDT bonds 'Ba3'

INTERNATIONAL ratings agency Moody's Investors Service on Friday said it assigned a "Ba3" rating to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s proposed $350-million five-year and 10-year fixed rate notes.

It warned, however, that it was continuing a review for a possible downgrade of PLDT's credit rating.

"The ratings will be confirmed, with a stable outlook, if PLDT is successful with the bond issues at the proposed level of $350 million, as this will materially reduce refinancing pressures the company faces," Moody's said in a statement.

A downgrade will make it more expensive for PLDT to borrow funds abroad.

Moody's said it was expecting PLDT to cover some $365 million in maturing obligations this year.

The country's biggest telecommunications firm said it would use the net proceeds of the bond offering to repay short- and medium-term debts.

Moody's said it believed PLDT would be better positioned to repay its debts, given the likelihood of higher free-cash generation.

PLDT also has debt maturities of approximately $570 million in 2003 and $400 million in 2004.

Moody's, though, noted that PLDT was well advanced in talks with various potential debt providers.

Apart from tapping the bond market, PLDT is also planning a sale of a portion of its interest in wholly owned firm Smart Telecommunications Inc. to a strategic financial investor.

PLDT earlier disclosed that the Japan Bank for International Cooperation was set to lend up to $80 million as part of the phone firm's liability management program. ***Elena R. Torrijos***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67	66	66	1,996,800
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41	157,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	79.5	79.5	79.5	79.5	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	111,700
Phil. Bank of Comm.	80	80	80	80	600
Philippine National Bank	60.5	60.5	60	60	5,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	250,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1385	1380	1385	5,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1110	1115	1105	1115	4,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35	35	34	34	6,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	1,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	800	805	5,550
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	4,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	19,000
Piltel	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.5	7,380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	550	550	545	545	99,700
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	41,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29.5	30	29.5	30	5,100
Manila Electric Co. B	47	47.5	47	47	913,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	2,145,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	2,056,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,640,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	239,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.75	145,600
RFM Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	457,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	18,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	78,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62	32,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	11	11	11	11	1,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	734,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	161,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	60,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.72	21,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	1,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	536,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	80,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30	30	1,180,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	230,000
Ionics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	1,520,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	3,390,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	4,750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	35	35	34.5	34.5	113,800
DMCI Holdings, Inc- Pref.	765	770	765	770	7,770
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	785	785	785	20
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	8,772,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	13,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.6	12,895,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	10,186,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev., Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	300,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.0525	0.0525	0.048	0.049	52,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	250,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	440,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000

BSP further tightens policy on bank audits

From page B1

auditors to report to the BSP any findings of fraud or dishonesty that will reduce the bank's capital funds by at least one percent.

Auditors are also required to report to the BSP potential losses of the banks amounting to at least one percent of capital funds.

The accounting firm must also alert the BSP about any indication that a bank's assets are no longer adequate to cover the total claims of its creditors.

In the past, the central bank was able to discover financial problems of banks during its yearly audit. At present, it can investigate anytime a bank reported by an external auditor to be violating policies.

To be accredited by the BSP, an external auditor should have no direct or indirect financial interest in the bank or any outstanding loans with the bank involved. It should have a five-year track record and it should adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and ethics.

The auditor must also have at least 20 existing corporate clients with resources of P50 million each and it must have at least one existing client from among the commercial lenders.

INFORMATICS
COMPUTER INSTITUTE
2002 GRADUATES

Blazing the IT trail

The IT industry's much-awaited batch of graduates is finally here. The Informatics Computer Institute is holding commencement exercises today for the graduates of its highly acclaimed courses and world-class diploma programs.

Most noted in this assembly is the first batch of BS Computer Science graduates – members of the pioneering group who took the first step when the Informatics Computer Institute opened its baccalaureate program in 1998.

And in the end, it came down to an elite group of fifteen highly skilled and motivated young men and women. Already, all eyes are on these IT experts, as local corporations and multinational companies alike jostle for a chance to work with them.

They've been called the 'Fabulous Fifteen', and they're ready to transform information technology as we know it.

Watch out, 'cause here comes Informatics Batch 2002.

Meet the "FABULOUS 15"

List of BSCS Graduates:

- AMA, Catherine G.
- BOCAR, Julian Anwar T.
- BALDOVINO, Jun Roland M.
- BELEN, Roy E.
- DY GUAZO, Roberto T.
- FORMALES, June Love A.
- FRADEJAS, Novellie
- MALLARI, Gil S.
- MALLARI, Fatima Patricia R.
- PEREZ, Lindsay J.
- REFUERZO, Eric V.
- SANTOS, Maria Rowena Z.
- SURATOS, Israel R.
- TANTENGCO, Renee C.
- TAO, Jefferson M.

INFORMATICS
International College

THE BEST THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER – RIGHT HERE

In recognition of the growing needs of education towards a globalized economy, the Informatics group has introduced the Informatics International College (IIC).

The IIC, with campuses strategically located in Ortigas Center and Filinvest Alabang, offers courses leading to international degrees from prestigious colleges and universities in the United States, UK, Australia, Canada and throughout Asia. Affiliated universities include the Salem International University (US), University of Portsmouth (UK), University of Wales (UK), Ottawa University, Curtin University and Oxford University. And just like Informatics Philippines, these universities also have strong linkages with global industrial partners.

Enrollees of IIC benefit from exactly the same curriculum, textbooks, methodologies, assessment and degree certification as those used in the foreign universities. As such, degrees conferred at the IIC campus are the same as the ones being awarded to students enrolled in the campuses abroad.

Furthermore, IIC also offers on-line education through its e-learning service provider, Purpletrain.com. This way, top executives and working students can continue their education or work on an extra degree, without compromising their schedule or lifestyle.

Available courses include Diploma Programs, Advance Diploma Programs, Ladderized Informatics BS Degrees, Foreign Degree Programs, and Masters and PhD Programs.

Discover world-class IT education through the Informatics International College. With IIC, the world is just a click away.

Informatics was declared "Franchisor of the Year" by Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB), National Productivity and Standards Board (NPSB) and Singapore International Franchise Association (SIFA) for its successful franchise programs.

MESSAGE

We live today in a world that is much more challenging and demanding due to the rapid advancements in the various fields of technology.

As such, it is no longer enough to possess industry, intelligence and determination in order to get ahead. Men and women of the 21st Century should also possess skills and knowledge about what has become a most basic tool of modern education: Information Technology.

Informatics is acknowledged as a leading institution in Information and Communication Technology. It is most heartening, therefore, that the school has harnessed all its human, technical and financial resources to the task of providing its graduates with the best preparation available for them to be competitive in the local and international labor market.

For this, the school deserves more than just praise. It also deserves our respect and gratitude. To Informatics and to its Batch 2002 graduates, I therefore most sincerely say, "Congratulations" and "Well Done!".

WASHINGTON M. AGUSTIN
TESDA-NCR
Regional Director

My congratulations to Informatics for its contributions to the growth of the country's information technology, through the honing and harnessing of future leaders who will captain the nation's course in this global phenomenon called Information Technology.

With the graduation of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Batch 2002, the country can feel strongly confident that we have additional cadre of skilled Filipino man power entering the global workforce to push further the frontier of the knowledge-based economy. This will also enhance greatly the vision of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to make the country the hub of e-services in the region. In this vision, the role of competent Filipino IT professionals is very crucial.

Again, my congratulations to the Informatics BSCS Batch 2002!

Dr. MANUEL PUNZAL
IT Commissioner
Commission on Higher Education

Graduates of our diploma programs are equipped with the best training available in the country today. And with their expertise comes the responsibility to use it in a responsible and productive manner. Therein lies the basic principle of IT – in using information wisely.

As with all our graduates, I'm extremely proud of Batch 2002. I wish you all the best. In whatever sphere of human endeavor you may happen to find yourselves in the days ahead, keep pace with the guiding principles, which your Alma Mater has instilled in your hearts.

Congratulations!

LEO A. RIINGEN
President
INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE

The other Informatics Computer Institute Graduates:

ALABANG

- CHUA, Hamilton G. - ADCS
- DIRILO, Haidee D. - ADCS
- CRUZ, Michael R. - DCS
- DE GUIA, Mollie Anthony C. - DCS
- POLICARPIO, Norman L. - DCS
- DIMA-ALA, Peter Jr. L. - DCS
- PAREDES, Ramon Gil, Jr. - DCS
- HOFMAN, Audrey
- CHERLITA, Remedios A. - DCS
- SANTILLAN, Ma. Teresita J.- DCS

BAGUIO*

- ACEJO, Diane M.
- BANDONG, Johnny T.
- CHAN, Donato F.
- OBEDOZA, Criselda M.
- TANDAGUEN, Richard R.

BATANGAS

- ABADAY, Amabelle H.
- SILVA, Jose Salvador N.

CAINTA

- BACTONG, Herebert Joie L.
- CHIAN, Diana Marie C.
- CHIAN, Paula Marie C,
- CLIMACÓ, Monica Mae A.
- GUEVARA, Ding DP.
- JSIDRO, Henry S.
- SANORJO, Irinee L.
- SUNGA, Rudyard M.

SM MANILA

- FARAON, Niconeil B.

SM MEGAMALL

- AGUINALDO, Benedict
- AVAREZ, Rodolfo Jr.
- VILLANUEVA, Joel
- ZULUETA, Ana Marie
- ARAMIL, Carlota
- MANGUIAT, Marianne
- CACDAC, Rodela
- LUKANG, Aldrin
- PANLILIO, Glenda
- SILVA, Araceli
- CORTEZ, Janice
- MANGLICMOT, Jimmy
- PASCUAL, Jose Eugene VI
- LOPEZ, Mae
- YLAGAN, Wilfredo Jr.
- MADRAZO, Rachel

U-BELT

- AMA, Catherine
- BALDOVINO, June Roland
- BELON, Roy
- BOCAR, Anwar Julian
- FORMALES, June-Love
- FRADEJAS, Novellie
- GUAZO, Robert Dy
- MALLARI, Fatima Patricia
- MALLARI, Gil
- PEREZ, Lindsay
- REFUERZO, Eric
- SANTOS, Maria Rowena
- SURATOS, Israel
- TANTANGCO, Renee
- TAO, Jefferson

Informatics has one of the largest networks of computer schools located all over the world, with over 400 centers in 40 countries. There are presently 41 Informatics centers located all over the Philippines.

Informatics was named among the World's 100 "Best Managed Small Companies" outside USA by Forbes magazine. The company was also voted by leading magazine Asiamoney as one of the "Best Managed Small Companies in Singapore".

Survey to settle dispute over PSE trading hours

THE FLOOR trading and arbitrage committee of the Philippine Stock Exchange has decided to survey stockbrokers about a proposal to extend the bourse's afternoon trading hours.

In its survey, the committee said it would give stockbrokers three choices to determine the best recourse to take regarding the matter.

"We'll give them three choices of afternoon trading schedule: retain the existing 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; or shift to 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.," PSE director and floor trading and arbitrage committee co-chair Eddie Gobing said.

There has been strong opposition among local brokers to a proposal to extend the stock market's trading hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. One group has suggested to instead move to a 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. schedule without a lunch break.

Gobing explained that since some brokers were already biased toward reducing instead of extending the trading hours, his committee excluded the 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. schedule among the choices in its survey.

"We feel that it will be one step backward," he said.

Gobing said the floor trading and arbitrage committee would undertake the survey this week. He expected the committee to firm up its recommendation on Friday.

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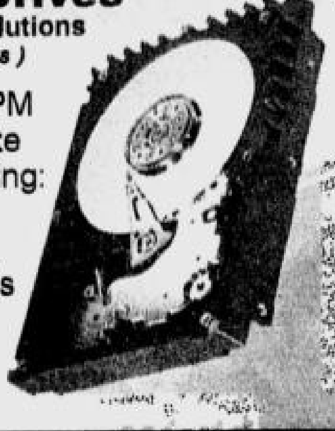

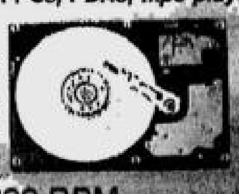

MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR NEWS:

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2000 ANSI, XGA, 4.2kg, sRGB

Canon LV7345
2000 ANSI, XGA, 3.2kg, TurboBright

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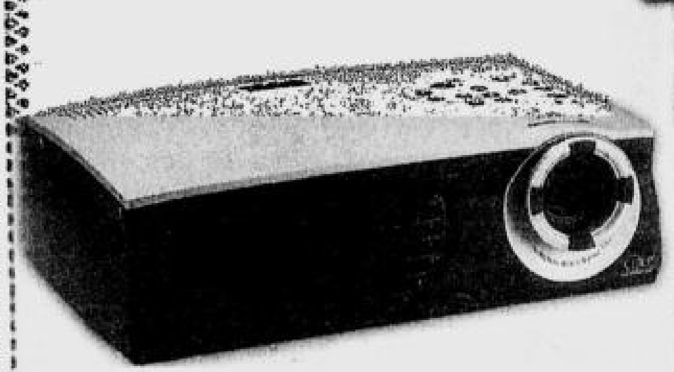

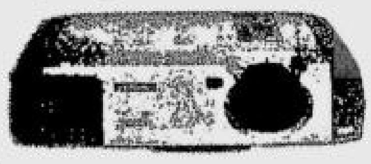

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For more information, please call Orig Jover at 636-7537 / Mary Grace Borja at 633-7902 / Flor Cruz at 634-2822, or email ejover@uap.edu.ph

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Who should attend: Senior Executive, Financial Managers, Corporate Planners, Exporters, Importers

For more information, please call Orig Jover at 636-7537 / Mary Grace Borja at 633-7902 / Flor Cruz at 634-2822, or email ejover@uap.edu.ph

AYALA LAND, INC.

₱3 Billion ALI Bonds

Offer Period: ▶ April 10 to 24, 2002
Issue Dates: Tranche A: April 17, 2002
Tranche B: April 24, 2002
Minimum Investment: ▶ ₱ 50,000.00

Issue Manager:
BPI Capital Corporation

Joint Lead Underwriters:
BPI Capital Corporation Tels. 845-5598; 845-5607
FIRST METRO Investment Corporation Tels. 840-5751 (Makati Office); 241-4301(Binondo Office)

Co-Lead Underwriters:
PCI Capital Corporation Tel. 840-7000
BDO Capital & Investment Corporation Tels. 636-0961; 688-6298

Participating Underwriters:
AB Capital & Investment Corporation Tels. 817-5607; 818-0678
RCBC Capital Corporation Tel. 894-9000
PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL INC. Tel. 815-0636
UCPB Investment Banking Division Tel. 811-9913

1. What are the ALI Bonds?
These are securities constituting the direct, unconditional and general obligations of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI).

2. Who can purchase the ALI Bonds?
Any investor who has at least ₱50,000.00 can purchase the Bonds. Purchases in excess of the minimum shall be in multiples of ₱50,000.00.

3. What is the term of the ALI Bonds?
The Bonds shall be redeemed in full by ALI after five (5) years and one (1) day from issue date.

4. How much will an investor earn from investing in the Bonds?
The Bonds shall carry a floating interest rate (to be set every quarter) which shall be the sum of the Base Rate plus a spread of 2.0% p.a. The Base Rate shall be the average bid yield of the applicable 91-day T-bills based on the secondary market bids as displayed on the MART 1 page of Bloomberg.

Interest on the Bonds shall be subject to a final withholding tax of 20% or such rate as may be provided by law or regulation, which shall be withheld at source.

▶ Sample Computation ▶

Face Value	₱50,000.00
Interest Rate p.a.	8.0%*
Gross Interest Due for 90 days	1,000.00
Less 20% Withholding Tax	200.00
Net Interest Due for 90 days	800.00

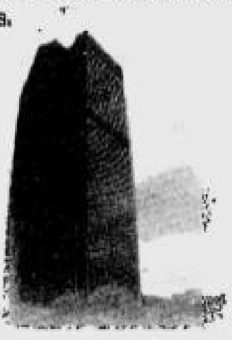
(* Assumed Interest Rate of 8.0% for purposes of illustration only.)

5. How can an investor purchase the Bonds?
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase form and submits this together with two (2) valid IDs and payment to any of the underwriters. Institutional and/or corporate investors must submit copies of their respective board resolutions and such other requirements as indicated in the Application to Purchase form.

6. What is an investor's proof of investment in the Bonds?
The investor is given an acknowledged copy of his duly accomplished Application to Purchase form and/or a Confirmation Advice or Confirmation of Sale. The Bonds shall be issued in scripless form using the scripless book-entry system of the Philippine Central Depository, Inc. (PCD). No certificate shall be issued to investors. The underwriters shall designate a PCD Participant for the lodgment of the Bonds with the PCD on behalf of their respective bondholders.

7. After the offering, can an investor still purchase or trade the Bonds?
Yes, the Bonds can be traded (bought and sold) at prevailing market prices subject to trading restrictions established in the terms and conditions of the Bonds.

8. Where can an investor purchase the Bonds?
Investors can purchase the Bonds from the underwriters' offices, branches and/or business centers.



Regulators seek end to BW scam chapter

By Doris C. Dumlao

SECURITIES regulators are seeking to close the chapter on the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal that almost led to the collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1999, but at a high price for over 70 stockbrokerages.

The PSE, which convened the brokers slapped with administrative cases last week, said it would analyze the various charges and then seek a dialogue with the Securities and Exchange Commission on how to wind up the BW issue.

"The brokers and the regulators should learn a lot from this experience. It is not something to be feared by the brokers. Instead, we should look at the applications and share knowledge," PSE president Ernest Leung told reporters.

Determined to seek the closure of the BW case, the SEC has given the brokers involved until today to negotiate. The administrative charges were the SEC's way of penalizing the institutions believed to have had a hand in the BW scandal, including those that managed to evade legal charges from the Department of Justice.

The number of brokers slapped by the SEC with the administrative charges represents over 40 percent of the active members of the PSE.

During last week's meeting with the brokers, Leung said there were a lot of questions on the charges slapped by the SEC.

"Some were not very clear, so the brokers were worried, confused and didn't know how to react," Leung said.

The heaviest charges, traders said, were inferences on wash and match trades, which carried a penalty of P50,000 for each count.

"There were brokers slapped with as much as 100 counts so it's so hard, especially now that a lot of brokerage houses were not earning that much," a local broker said.

"So everyone is really trying to see how they can manage these and some to a settlement with the SEC," the broker added.

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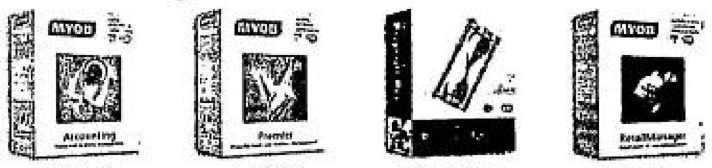

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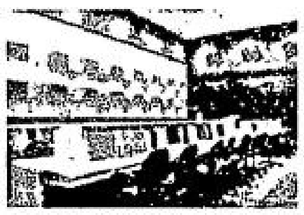
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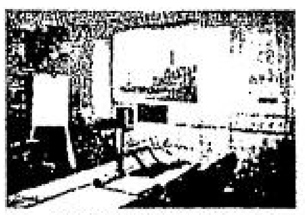
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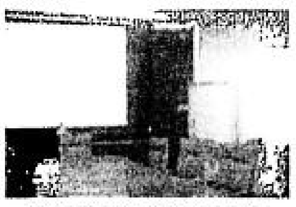
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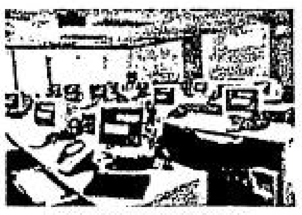
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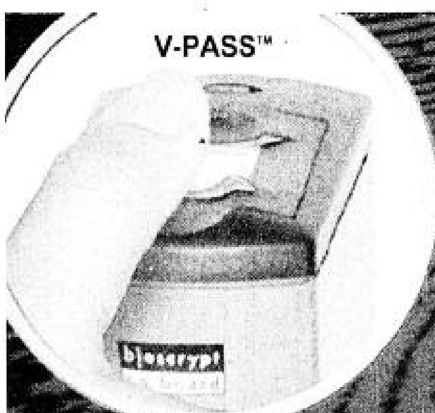

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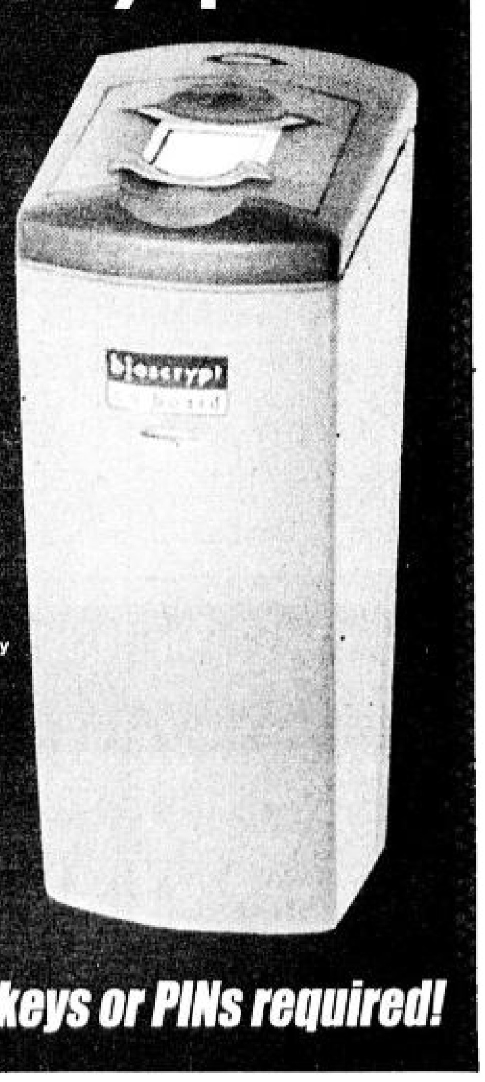

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Family pride, bad loans hinder bank mergers

LARGER BANKS

FAMILY pride, bad loans, varying valuation ideas and a weak economic environment are conspiring to spoil efforts by the Philippine authorities to persuade the 150 or so banks in the country to consolidate.

The top 3 banks control 35 to 40 percent of the industry. Add to that 39 small- and medium-sized commercial banks and over 100 even smaller thrift or savings and loans operations, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas thinks the archipelago of 77 million people is just plain "over banked."

"There's a big gap (between big and small banks) so there may be some room for consolidation. But the problem is the banks do not want to," said Gene Gabriel, analyst at DBS-Vickers Securities.

In an effort to curb proliferation in the banking sector, the central bank has kept a moratorium on new bank licenses and branches since the second half of 2000.

Those banks that have ventured down the merger route were the smaller thrift banks bought by foreign institutions seeking to expand their presence here.

In December 2000, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. bought the savings bank arm of Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, for $22 million.

American Express Co. is waiting for regulatory approval to finalize its acquisition of thrift institution Omni Savings Bank and its 11 branches, allowing it to establish a Philippine entity.

Citibank was also reported to be eyeing an acquisition of a small local bank to expand its retail banking activities.

"We are encouraging mergers and acquisitions by other foreign banks of the weaker banks . . . down the road, we expect to see (only) a few large local banks," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters on Friday.

Philippine banks have a long way to go if they dream of becoming regional players. The country's biggest institution, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank), with total assets of $8.67 billion, is only just over one-tenth the size of Southeast Asia's biggest bank, Singapore's DBS Group.

The second largest Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has assets of $7.8 billion followed by Equitable at $5.5 billion. Only five other Philippine banks have assets of more than $1 billion.

Family pride

Philippine banks are mostly tightly held, with the top 2, Metrobank and BPI, having the widest free float in the industry of about 20 to 25 percent.

"Family interests will be a hurdle in terms of merging the smaller banks," said Gabriel of DBS-Vickers. Most banks are not willing to merge because of a clash in corporate cultures, while some just cannot see eye to eye with prospective partners.

"The medium-sized and smaller banks have problems on how to raise capital, how to address ownership issues," Alberto Reyes, central bank deputy governor for bank supervision, said.

"There's *amor-propio* (pride) involved . . . They think they can still survive given the present situation."

An example of family power is the eighth largest bank, Union Bank of the Philippines, which has a free float of just 6 percent. Analysts say the Spanish family owning a big stake does not want to sell or be diluted as the bank is doing well.

Valuation is another major stumbling block.

"The profitability of banks has gone down, and yet to sell, they are demanding the old pricing, meaning pre-Asian crisis levels. So nobody will buy at those prices," said Reyes.

The average return on equity (ROE) of Philippine commercial banks shrank to 3.4 percent at the end of 2001 from 13.4 percent in 1997, just before the peak of the Asian crisis, central bank data shows. That's a red alert for someone looking to acquire a Philippine bank.

Net interest margins of commercial banks have also narrowed to 3.4 percent in 2001 from 5.8 percent in 1997.

"Over the last few years for (Philippine) banks, it's been a case of contracting loan books, pressure on margins, and increased non-performing assets," said Jojo Gonzales, research head at Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

NPLs a headache

Non-performing assets (NPAs) of commercial banks ballooned to P282 billion or 113.3 percent of total capital at the end of 2001, from P74 billion or 29 percent in 1997, central bank data shows.

NPAs are NPLs plus total real property and other assets owned or acquired by the bank. NPLs of commercial banks were at 18.40 percent in February, up from 16.62 percent in February 2001 and 18.30 percent in January.

Most banks are waiting for the passage of a congressional bill on the creation of asset management companies that will buy bad bank loans. Banks will be able to get rid of NPLs and increase lending, or sell equity as their books become attractive again.

How long Philippine banks can turn a deaf ear to merger calls is a tough question. But getting rid of bad loans is a step in the right direction, analysts said.

"I think the big event in the sector will come from dealing with bad assets . . . Once they are able to do that, then the banks become . . . theoretically more attractive. The buyers themselves might rethink their cautious stance towards the banks," said Philippine Equity's Gonzales. ***Reuters***

Electronics firm boosts Subic's exports to $300M

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Taiwanese electronics giant Wistron InfoComm (Philippines) posted a hefty $238 million in export receipts, contributing to this freeport's 25-percent increase in exports value for the first quarter this year, documents from the One Stop Export Documentation Center (OSEDC) here showed.

Noel Tuliao, OSEDC assistant manager, said Wistron's exports, which rose to $95 million in March from a low $61 million in January, represent 80 percent of the Subic Freeport's total exports of $300 million during the period.

Subic's total exports rose by 46 percent in February and by 39 percent in March, resulting in an overall increase of 25 percent from its year-ago level of $240 million.

Aside from Wistron, the OSEDC said Japanese firm Sanyo Denki posted $11.5 million in exports. Air conditioner manufacturer, Taiwan Hitachi, came in third in the list of Subic's top export earners with $2.8 million.

Four other Japanese firms contributed $4 million as Japanese investments continued to pour into the freeport.

Ichiro Tsuji, Subic Techno Park (Step) president, said 20 hectares of land in Step have already been leased out to Japanese investors.

During Step's annual stockholders' meeting recently, Tsuji said Step registered $117.75 million worth of Japanese investments.

Juken Sangyo, one of the world's finest wood furnishing firms, and electronics firm Sankyo Seiki have opted to expand their operations in Subic to address their increasing markets worldwide. ***Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Inflation may hit 5.5%, BSP governor warns

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has warned that inflation might hit 5.5 percent this year on account of higher crude prices if the conflict in the Middle East is not resolved quickly.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that because of recent developments, he agreed with Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas' suggestion to put on hold any plans to adjust the inflation target this year to a range of 4.5 to 5.5 percent from 5 to 6 percent.

Buenaventura said during its meeting last week, the Development Budget and Coordination Council had assumed that, on a worst-case scenario, petroleum prices could hit $30 per barrel soon.

He said this would place the average oil price this year at about $27 per barrel, up from the earlier DBCC assumption of an average of $24 per barrel this year.

"The impact on inflation of an increase in crude oil price average to $27 per barrel will be about 1.8 percentage points," Buenaventura said.

When summed up with the March inflation rate of 3.6 percent, the full-year average could go up to 5.5 percent, he said.

He stressed that while a 5.5-percent inflation average would still be within the original forecast of 5 to 6 percent and even the prospective target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent, it would be difficult for the economic team not to have a buffer.

This especially since the central bank had adopted inflation-targeting this year, a framework dictating that monetary policies should fo[illegible] on keeping basic commodity prices stable and inflation within the target.

The DBCC had planned to adjust the inflation target positively to reflect the declining trend in inflation in the first two months of the year.

More than half of 40,000 villages still without phones

MORE than half the country's barangays have yet to hear a dial tone or get access to a mobile phone, the National Telecommunications Commission has reported.

In an interview, NTC Chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said the tendency in the industry to concentrate services in profitable urban areas had led to an imbalance in telecommunication access in the country.

More than half the country's 40,000 barangays still have no access to a telephone, Rio reported.

Rural penetration remained low, he said, especially those in far-flung areas where there were only a handful of potential subscribers.

Rio disclosed that despite the imposition of 10-to-one urban-to-rural ratio in the government's service area scheme for the telecommunications industry, telephone density in the Philippines remained below 20 percent.

The service area scheme required cellular service providers and international gateway facility operators to roll out 400,000 and 300,000 telephone lines. It also sought to give rural areas one for every 10 landlines that these providers would roll out.

According to a study conducted by consultancy firm Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity—or, Agile—in January, only 52.4 percent of the 1,609 cities and towns in the country had access to fixed lines, and most were in urban areas.

"The numbers are okay in the cities and municipalities, but these are really bad when you consider individual barangays," Rio told reporters.

What Agile suggested was for the NTC to "develop a program for covering unserved municipalities before 2004."

This entails making it mandatory for telecommunication firms to bring their services to "unserved" and "underserved" areas.

Agile said for firms undertaking expansion programs, a portion of their budget should be allocated for rural development.

Instead of a landline obligation, a "technology-neutral policy" should be adopted, it added.

Abigail L. Ho

Lawyer appointed as SEC associate commissioner

By Elena R. Torrijos

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed lawyer Jesus Enrique Gomez Martinez as associate commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, replacing Edijer Martinez, whose term ended last month.

Until his appointment, the 53-year-old Martinez was counsel for a number of local and foreign corporations.

Some of these clients are Australian traffic systems firm AWA, which helped build the controversial Metro Manila traffic signal system, and Knight Piesold, which did engineering work on the Casecnan dam.

In a news briefing last week, Martinez said he applied for the job and had to go through the Presidential Management Staff's inspection.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told the INQUIRER that Martinez was not one of those he recommended but that he had no objections.

Martinez is a member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

He earned his law degree from Silliman University and has been in general practice in litigation, contracts and investment negotiations for over 15 years.

He had also been a provincial board member in Negros Oriental, acting vice mayor of Dumaguete City and special counsel for the coconut levy sequestration task force assigned to the Philippine Coconut Authority chair.

He said he was currently preparing a paper evaluating the effect of the transfer of the SEC's quasi-judicial powers to hear intra-corporate cases to regular courts.

Martinez said he received complaints that the courts were unable to handle these cases.

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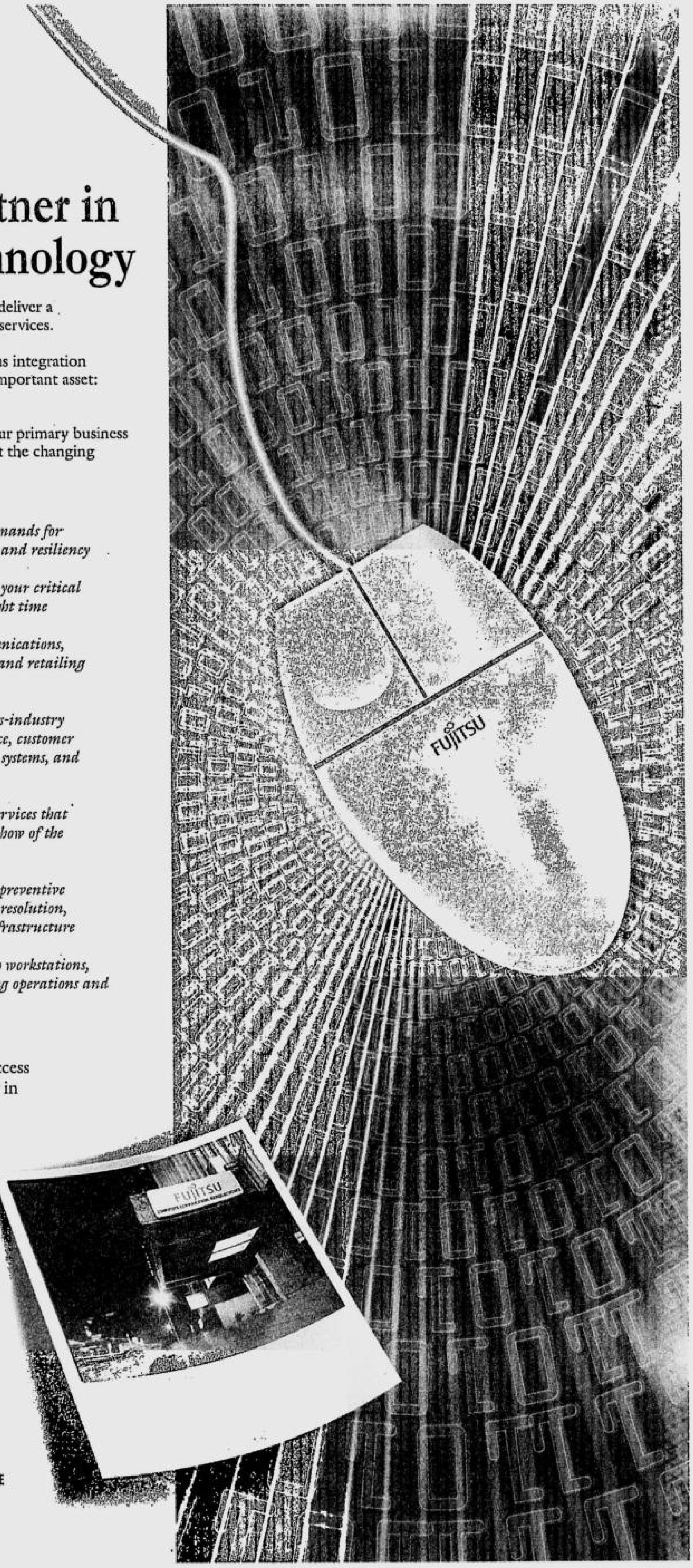

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Messages

Firm and steadfast

I would like to honor all the marketing associates who will receive their sales excellence awards. We all know it wasn't an easy task to remain on top of their field with the economic downturn hovering above us. Still they made it work by resorting to their usual traits such as enthusiasm, intelligence and belief in Pryce Plans and its products.

I am grateful to them for staying loyal to Pryce Plans. Entrepreneurs like them have made the company grow for the past fourteen years. There have been times in the life of the company that they have encountered challenges that tended to sway us. By remaining firm and steadfast, we bucked the winds of uncertainty last year.

It is but fitting that the symbol of our caravan is the tambuli. They are no different from the early Filipinos who had a strong sense of community. Though personal gains were important to them what was most treasured was the good of the majority. By their presence in the caravan they have responded extremely well in the call of excellence.

SALVADOR P. ESCANO
Chairman

OOOooOOO

Heroic efforts

Eric Weihenmayer reached the peak of the formidable Mt. Everest in April 2000. It was the fourth mountain that he had climbed successfully. In itself his achievement was not really a news breaking story for others had conquered the Himalayan mountain before. What is astounding is that he has been blind since age 13, the permanent effect of a rare hereditary disease.

His feat was so phenomenal that a New York based pharmaceutical company invited him to be a speaker in their annual meeting of country managers. He refrained form indulging in any corporate rhetoric. His message to the executives was straight to the point. Eric started with a basic premise- his blindness couldn't stop him in attaining his goal. He therefore worked around it to set out what he wanted to achieve.

Eric's strategy was astounding in its truth and simplicity. There was a moment when he wavered in his resolve. But he saved himself from defeat by thinking that two years of planning should not go to waste. He dreamt, trained properly and relied on co-climbers that he trusted.

Likewise, Pryce Plans entrepreneurs could have been intimidated by the economic crisis and just as easily given up their goal. But they have wisely decided that the time they spent in the field should produce results come what may. Just like Eric they were blind to failure and worked with perseverance. The awards that they will receive are the proof of their effort. Not just any ordinary effort but a heroic one for they have shown that they can conquer personal doubts and external circumstances through their indomitable entrepreneurial spirit.

MARIO M. SILOS
President

OOOooOOO

The big picture

The road that Pryce Plans elite entrepreneurs had taken was long and less traveled but they forged ahead. And now they are here in Manila triumphant and ready to be acknowledged by the company and their peers.

They are not alone. They are part of the 185,000 strong people who work in the pre-need industry bringing P 3.2 billion in new business premiums. This staggering amount came from 210,792 educational planholders, 329,031 pension planholders and 624,137 life plan holders.

That is only the tip of the iceberg. Only eight million Filipinos have availed of pre-need plans. This is a small percentage of the present 75 million population of the country. The market is ripe and wide as pre-need is in a sunrise industry with a 39% growth rate from 2000 to 2001.

As they walk up the stage to receive their awards they should keep in mind that their personal sales effort is part of the bigger picture of an industry that has sustained incredible trust from Filipinos for the past 15 years.

Their awards are doubly significant. Aside from their personal gains, their hard work has ensured that many Filipinos will be provided with a brighter and secure future.

RODRIGO B. JUMAO-AS
SVP-Marketing Group

PRYCE PLANS, INC.

12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CARAVAN OF ELITE ENTREPRENEURS

MAYNILA

The call to excellence

FOR early Filipinos the tambuli, made from either animal tusks or conch shell, signals togetherness. Once its loud and long sound is heard, tribesmen leave their tasks and hurry to a communal space for meetings or emergencies. The indigenous horn is better remembered for summoning people to celebrate weddings, a successful hunt, a good harvest or the appointment of a new leader.

Likewise the call to celebrate is again heard throughout the regions for Pryce Plans elite entrepreneurs. From an arduous journey of business building, the company's marketing associates will drink fron the cup of their achievements. During the awards night they will stand proud among their peers as they are presented with trophies and cash prizes that they richly deserve.

However, the 12th Annual National Caravan of Elite Entrepreneurs is not just about giving awards. It runs behind a solid purpose of nurturing relationships. Their lives become inextricably entwined with other entrepreneurs. Encouragement, goodwill and joy are experienced with those who share the same vision as they have.

Thus, the Pryce Plan's communal space becomes a source of comfort, laughter, inspiration and challenge. It is akin to the tribesmen of yore who gathered atound the fire swapping stories. Whether it is their first or nth time in the annual caravan doesn't matter for as they abide by the call of this elite circle they are given the chance to tell their own unique story of excellence.

Congratulations Pryce Plans elite entrepreneurs!

TOP MARKETING ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR

JAVELOSA, GERARDO J.
Managing Sales Director

VASQUEZ, ALVIN M.
Sales Manager

DE LEON, MANOLITA A.
Financial Consultant

ASSOCIATE SALES DIRECTOR

ALDEGUER, FILIPINA C.

VASQUEZ, ANTONIO G.

LERIAS, EVANSUENDA C.

PERONO, JOCELYN H.

FEBRERO, ELNORA O.

BOLO, JOSEPH D.

SARMIENTO, CAROLINE J.

SALES MANAGER

CHIU, FE T.

MINA, JOSEFINA C.

LERIAS, ORLY NIÑO C.

MOLINA, SABINA M.

BERICO, ROSERITO P.

VARELA, CHRISTINE L.

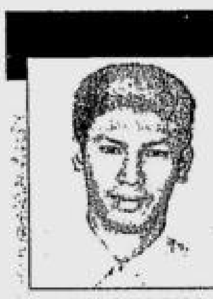
NUFABLE, MA. CHRISTINA

PERONO, RENE B.

LAGUE, GENARO A.

FEBRERO, MA. FEBE O.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT



MOJICA, GINO ANGELO A.

JAVELOSA, KRISTI MARIE E.

NARCISO, JUANA A.

RODRIGUEZ, BITUIN

[illegible] A.

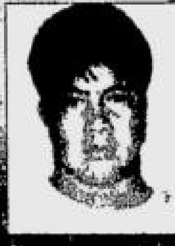
MOLINA, ROLLY P.

LERIAS, VIOLAINE C.

PABREÑAS, MARGUETA B.

CHU, MARY LYNE D.

LERIAS, [illegible]



[illegible]

ENRIQUEZ, NANCITA D.

CACAO, MICHELLE F.

CASPLE, SHERRIE FAITH B.

JULIANO, BERNARDO A.

ESCAÑO, MARTIN PAUL E.

[illegible]EDILO, JOSEPHINE B.

UY, VICTORIA L.

FERRERO, VICTOR P.

LAGUE, EVELYN B.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MOTION

A Milestone Meets A Landmark

PRYCE PLANS, INC.

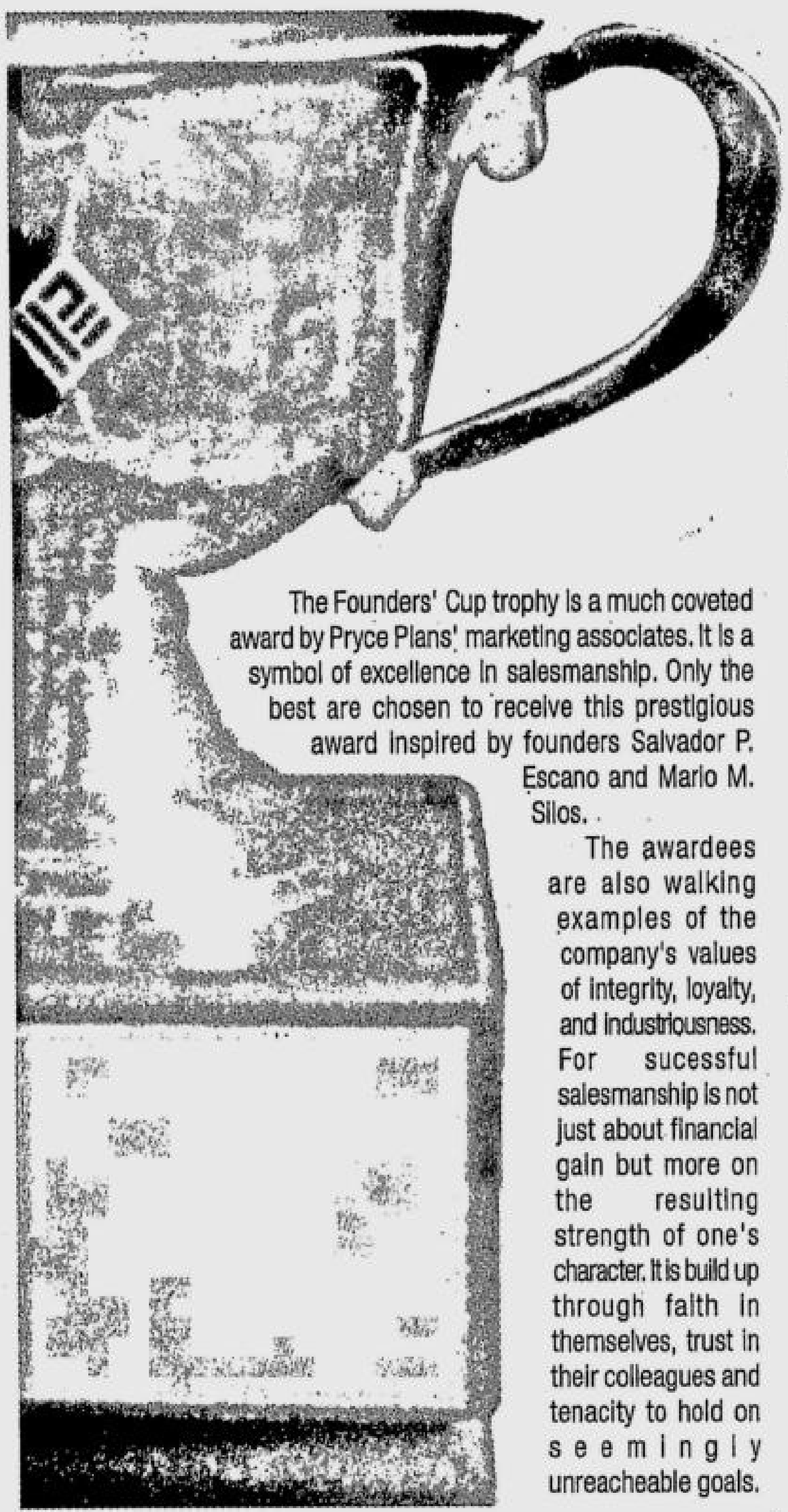
FOUNDERS' CUP 2001

ROOTS OF EXCELLENCE, WINGS OF DREAMS

THE Pryce Plans marketing associates' passion for winning has given rise to roots of excellent salesmanship. This was evident during the intense Founder's Cup one-month sales drive.

But what makes the Founder's Cup winners stand out is their refusal to rest on their laurels. They took on their own wings of dreams to a journey of possibilities and growth.

These dreams have brought them to a place that did not question what they can become and hope to achieve.



The Founders' Cup trophy is a much coveted award by Pryce Plans' marketing associates. It is a symbol of excellence in salesmanship. Only the best are chosen to receive this prestigious award inspired by founders Salvador P. Escano and Mario M. Silos.

The awardees are also walking examples of the company's values of integrity, loyalty, and industriousness. For sucessful salesmanship is not just about financial gain but more on the resulting strength of one's character. It is build up through faith in themselves, trust in their colleagues and tenacity to hold on seemingly unreacheable goals.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

JAVELOSA, GERARDO J.
Managing Sales Diretor

COSCULLUELA, SEBASTIAN
Associate Sales Director

CHIU, FE T.
Sales Manager

DE LEON, MANOLITA A.
Financial Consultant

THE CHAMPIONS

MANAGING SALES DIRECTOR

VASQUEZ, ROSEMARY M.

LEGASPI, ARACELI N.

ASSOCIATE SALES DIRECTOR

VASQUEZ, ANTONIO G.

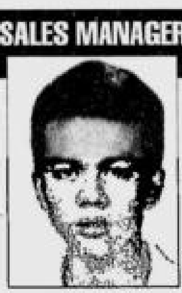
PERONO, JOCELYN H.

ALDEGUER, FILIPINA C.

SALES MANAGER

NARCISO, JUANA A.

PARREÑAS, MANSUETA A.



VASQUEZ, ALVIN M.

PERONO, RENE B.

VARELA, CHRISTINE L.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

JAVELOSA, KRISTI MARIE E.

NARCISO, JUANA A.

VASQUEZ, ALVIN M.

PARREÑAS, MANSUETA U.

RODRIGUEZ, BITUIN B.

GARDOSE, CONCHITA B.

BERICO, MA. CELESTE A.

VARELA, MARIANO G.

BERJA, LOUELLA D.

CHU, MARY LYNE D.

PERONO, RENE B.

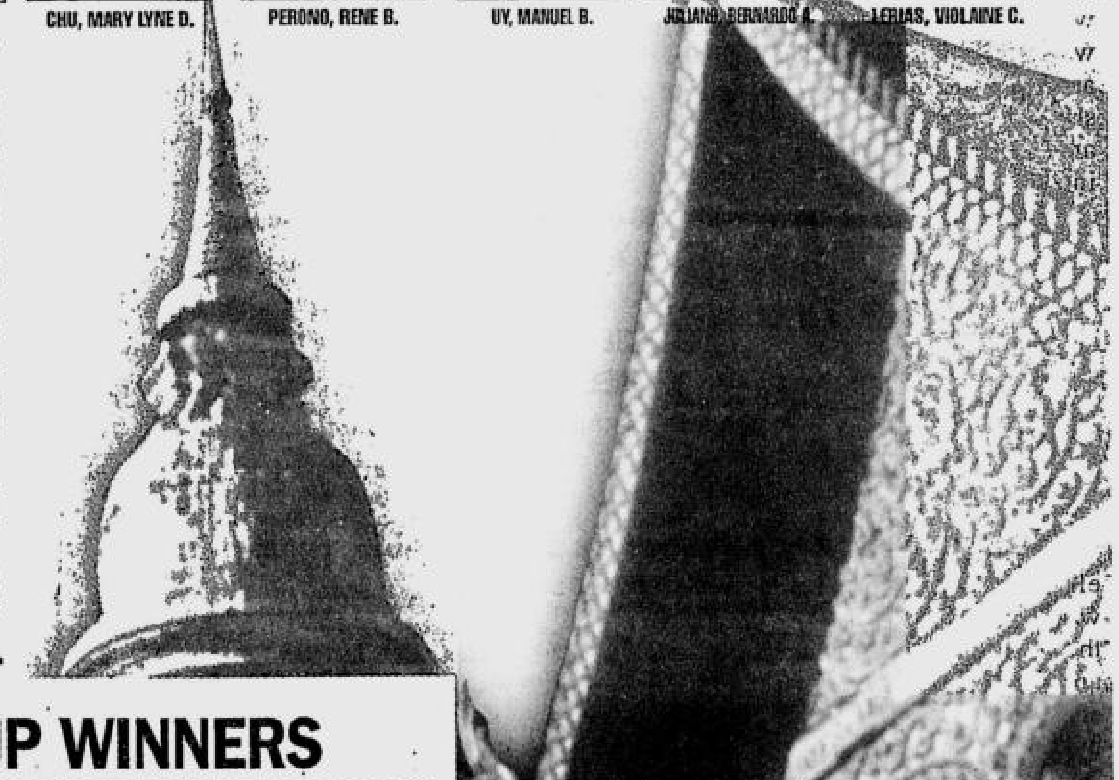
UY, MANUEL B.

JULIANO, BERNARDO A.

LERIAS, VIOLAINE C.

STAR AWARDEES

- **Financial Consultants Level - Diamond Three Star:** MOLINA, ROLLY P., **Diamond Two Star:** CALUGCUG, NOLITA L., CASIPLE, SHERRIE FAITH B., JANEO, MA. LIZ L., **Diamond One Star:** LAGUE, EVELYN B., ESCANO, MARTIN PAUL T., FEBRERO, VICTOR P., MOJICA, GINO ANGELO A., MONTES, EFREN B., LEGASPI, CARLA JOYCE N., **Gold Two Star:** ANG, EDUARDO R., **Gold One Star:** IGNAS, LILIBETH L., MERCADO, FRANCIS V., BOLO, JULIUS D., **Silver Two Star:** MEDILO, JOSEPHINE B., YBAÑEZ, HELEMINAS D., **Silver One Star:** NOMBRADO, GILBERT D., UY, VICTORIA L.,
- **Sales Manager Level - Diamond Three Star:** BERICO, ROSERITO P., **Diamond Two Star:** UY, MA. LIBERTINE V., **Diamond One Star:** CHU, MARY LYNE D., LEGASPI, JOSE PAULO N., **Gold Three Star:** MOLINA, SABINA M., LERIAS, ORLY NIÑO C., **Gold One Star:** FEBRERO, MA. FEBE O. (MT), CASIPLE, RACQUEL B., NUFABLE, MA. CHRISTINA F., **Silver Three Star:** ESCANO, MARICHU Y.,
- **Associate Sales Director Level - Diamond One Star:** PARREÑAS, ROSELO L. - SSM, BOLO, JOSEPH D., SARMIENTO, CAROLINE J., **Gold Three Star:** LERIAS, EVANSUENDA C., FEBRERO, ELNORA O.,
- **Managing Sales Director Level - Diamond Three Star:** LERIAS, PELAGIO M. JR., **Deputy First Vice President - Diamond Two Star:** JULIANO, MAPET A., **Diamond One Star:** BUÑI, ANTONIO S.



THAILAND TRIP AWAITS FOUNDERS' CUP WINNERS

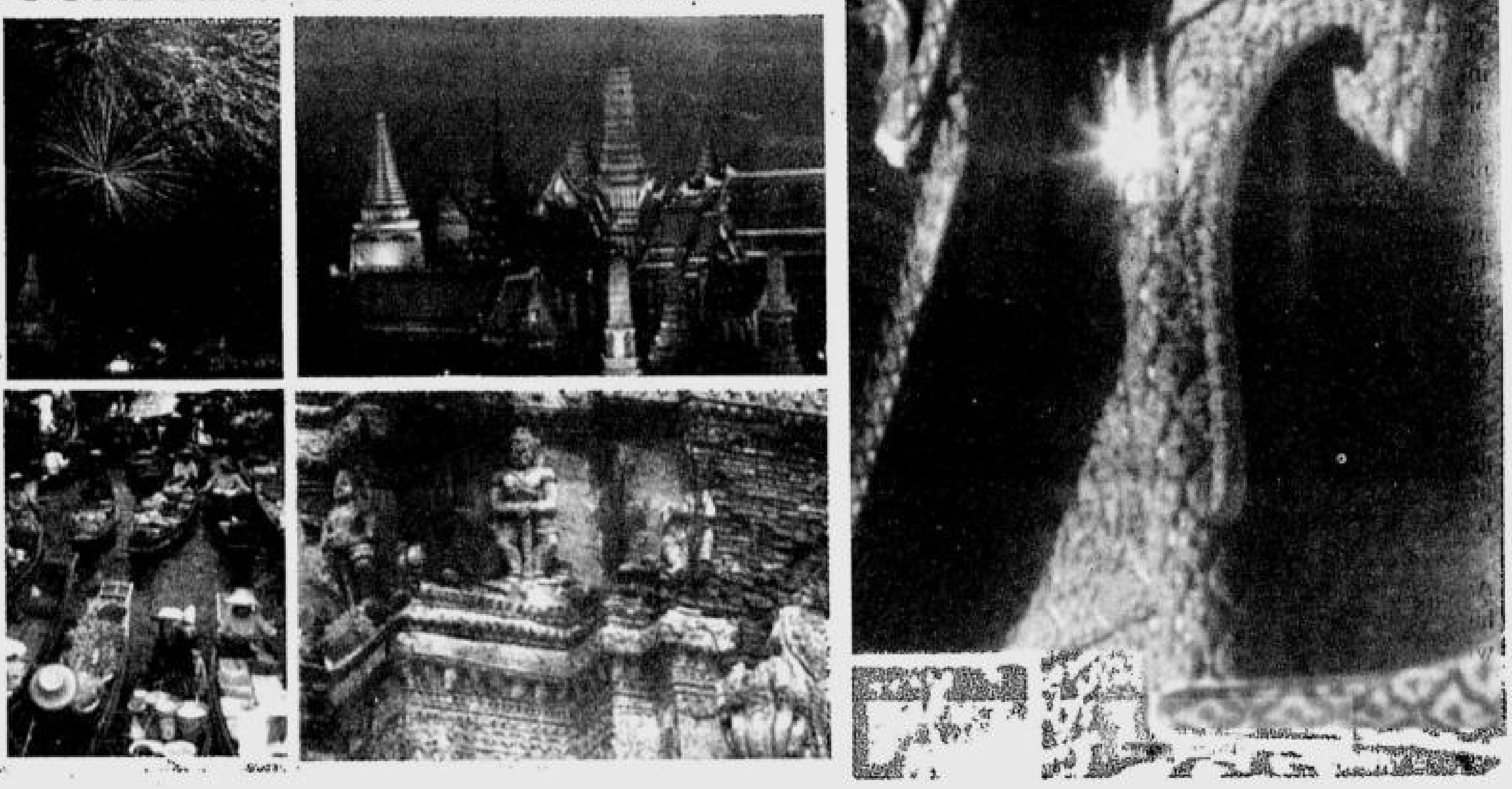
Thirty Pryce Plans marketing associates will be touring Bangkok, Thailand on April 18-21 as part of their incentives in winning the Founders' Cup, the company's most prestigious sales drive.

The Founders' Cup which was established in 1995 to inspire further Pryce Plans' marketing associates is the year-end sales competition that not only offers cash prizes but the much-coveted gold trophy and trips, local and abroad for the winners.

Stringent qualifying requirements were drawn up by management to ensure that only the cream of the crop are chosen as champions and star awardees for the 2001 Founders' Cup.

The Founder's Cup and the Maynila Caravan will have a joint awarding ceremonies on April 17 at The Heritage Hotel grand ballroom with company officers, invited marketing officers, and special guests in attendance.

Special entertainment numbers have been prepared to honor the winners.



Gov't, Tan start PNB revamp

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan have started revamping the 11-member board of Philippine National Bank in preparation for the rehabilitation of the country's sixth largest lender.

In an interview, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government would regain control of the PNB board with five representatives. Tan, on the other hand, would have four seats, he said.

The two parties will each select an independent director.

Camacho said the government's nominees were PNB chair Francisco Dizon, incoming PNB president Lorenzo Tan, former PNB chair Norberto Nazareno, accountant Flor Tarriela and sugar baron Franklin Fuentebella.

A person familiar with the situation said the other slate included Tan; Tan's brother-in-law, Macario Te; and trusted associate, Domingo Chua; and outgoing PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr.

Tan was said to have dropped from his list Enrique Filamor, a former director of APC Group Inc., who would stay on only as an adviser to the board.

Camacho said the government was looking at naming former Far East Bank and Trust Co. senior vice president Vicente Panlilio as an independent director.

Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo, would likely be reappointed as the other independent director, according to one source.

The Monetary Board of the central bank will have to approve the new PNB board, as all nominees will have to pass the country's "fit-and-proper" test.

A central bank official said since most of the people who were likely to make it to the new PNB board were veteran bankers, the Monetary Board would likely give its approval.

Tan, the new PNB president, is former president of United Coconut Planters Bank, while Dizon is former president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Nazareno is president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., and Tarriela used to be a partner of SGV & Co.

A few nominees, including Fuentebella and Salgado, however, were perceived to be political accommodations.

While Fuentebella was a former official of two very small banks, his ticket to PNB was said to be Ms Macapagal's husband, Miguel Arroyo.

Camacho said last week PNB would no longer need any new capital with the likely conversion of P7.8 billion worth of government advances into equities.

Camacho expressed optimism that the government and PNB majority owner Tan would be able to turn the bank around and sell their joint 67-percent stake in two to three years, five years ahead of their current schedule.

As of end-2001, the country's sixth largest bank had a capital of only P14.5 billion.

Its capital adequacy ratio—a measure of its ability to cover risks with its existing capital base—stood at 11.2 percent, just slightly higher than the 10-percent minimum requirement set by the central bank.

This figure is expected to rise to 17 percent and make PNB at par with most of the country's major lenders once the P7.8 billion worth of loans extended by the government to the bank is converted into equities.

NDC seen dumping First Centennial on CDC's lap

THE NATIONAL Development Co. is planning to transfer—lock, stock and barrel—First Centennial Clark Corp. to Clark Development Corp., which is keen on reviving one of the government's biggest white elephant, "Expo Filipino."

Trade Secretary and NDC chair Manuel Roxas II said the move was in line with the President's wishes of maximizing the value of every asset under government control.

Roxas admitted, however, that the move would have no impact on NDC's balance sheet, which would remain dreadful after the transfer and the Bureau of Treasury's servicing of the state-guaranteed debts owed by FCCC that it would continue to shoulder even after CDC's takeover.

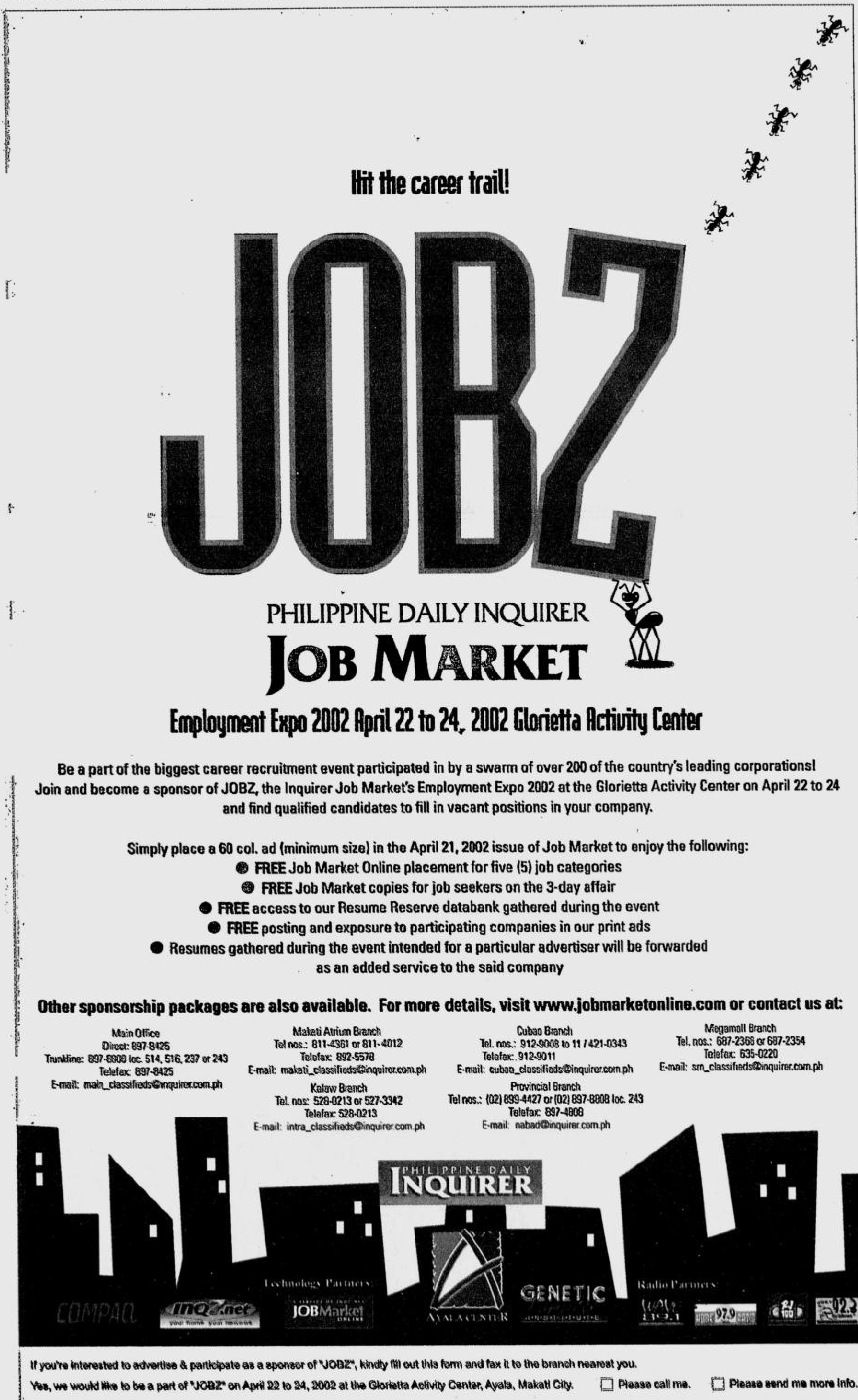
At best, Roxas said, the transfer would save NDC from defraying the maintenance costs of Expo Filipino.

NDC was forced to buy into the project in 1997 after one of the private sector proponents pulled out of what was designed as the centerpiece of the Philippines centennial celebration.

NDC has a 60-percent equity in the project, with Asian Construction Development Corp. owning 40 percent.

It has invested P1.377 billion into the project—P900 million in equity and P477 million in loans—and borrowed P977 million in loans from the Social Security System, Land Bank of the Philippines and Government Service Insurance System.

Gil. Cabacungan Jr.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Tile industry nixes Tariff Commission safeguard ruling

LOCAL ceramic tile makers are asking the Department of Trade and Industry to reject the Tariff Commission's recommended safeguard measures, saying they neither redress nor prevent the serious injury caused by imports.

In a letter sent to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II last week, the Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers Association instead urged the DTI to stand pat on its original decision to impose a safeguard tariff of P5.40 per kilogram on imported tiles.

"During the short period when this provisional measure was imposed, the Philippine ceramic tile industry experienced relief from the onslaught of cheap imported ceramic tiles," Edison Co Seteng said in a letter he signed for the Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers Association. "We hope that this could continue, as it would greatly help the Philippine ceramic tile industry survive and give it breathing space in its efforts to become globally competitive."

The Tariff Commission had recommended to the DTI duty-free import quotas and a lower specific duty of only P2.30 per kilogram on imports outside the quota despite findings of a direct link between the surge in imports and the huge losses suffered by the industry.

Co Seteng said the commission's basis for computing the P2.30-per-kg tariff level was "questionable" and that the amount is not enough to level the playing field or to protect the Philippine ceramic industry from the serious injury from imports."

He added that there is no effective way of monitoring quotas given "the reality in the ease of getting away with under-declarations..." Besides, he said even if a quota were properly enforced, it goes against DTI and the commission's own findings of injury.

PSALM in talks to change contracts with 2 more firms

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said it was in talks with two more private power producers on possible changes in their contracts with the National Power Corp.

PSALM, which is taking over Napocor's assets, as well as its contracts, is also negotiating with Enron Power Philippines Corp. on a buyout of Enron's contract.

But PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso, in an interview, refused to give details on the two other discussions.

"These two have different cases, but they are not hard up on finances like Enron," Del Fonso told the INQUIRER.

He added that PSALM and Enron had yet to reach an agreement.

The two firms have been negotiating since December. That was shortly after Enron Philippines' US-based parent company filed for Chapter 11 bankrupcy protection, which allowed it to remain in control of its business while negotiating with its creditors.

Enron has two oil-fired power plants in the country: the 108-megawatt Subic power plant in Zambales and 105-mw Pinamucan power plant in Batangas.

The two power plants have an estimated total cost of $250 million.

Enron's build-operate-transfer contract with Napocor covering the Batangas power plant will lapse in July 2003, while the one in Zambales will expire in March 2009.

Enron initially offered for the buyout of a 12-percent discount on the future cash flow it expected from Napocor, but the government sought a higher rate.

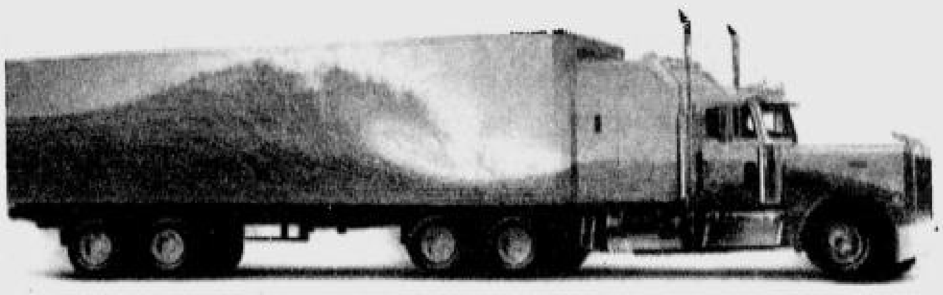
In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said PSALM was negotiating with private power firms on the possible cancellation of supply deals with Napocor.

"PSALM is trying to reduce the costs that consumers will shoulder," Perez said. "We have an excess of power supply in the country."

He said PSALM was also considering the conversion of BOT contracts to build-operate-own, and reduction of take-or-pay contracts.

Take-or-pay means that Napocor will pay for the agreed volume of electricity as stated in the contract even if the power firm uses less due to limited demand.

Napocor has existing contracts with about 42 private power firms. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



Experts say US prices, sales data point to modest economic recovery

WASHINGTON—The US economy has performed a welcome "soft take-off," experts said Friday, as fresh data showed inflation, consumer confidence and store sales all moderating.

The figures eased fears that US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan may have to jack up interest rates to temper inflationary pressures, economists said.

"Traditionally people talk about a soft landing; I think this is the soft take-off," Wachovia Securities economist John Silvia said.

"This is just not fast enough for the Fed to get all that upset with respect to an economic boom. It is a recovery but it is a recovery within measure."

US producer prices surged 1.0 percent in March—the steepest jump in 14 months—but the culprit was clearly energy prices, which soared 5.5 percent.

The core rate, which excludes volatile energy and food costs, edged up just 0.1 percent.

The price of gasoline had raced ahead by 21.3 percent, heating oil by 19.7 percent and liquefied petroleum gas by 23.8 percent, the Labor Department data showed.

"The bottom line is, there is really little if any pricing pressure at the factory level," said Sal Guatieri, Chicago-based economist at Bank of Montreal.

Meanwhile, US consumer sentiment slipped unexpectedly in early April, a survey by the University of Michigan showed.

A consumer sentiment index compiled from the survey's results fell to 94.4 points in the preliminary April report from 95.7 in the final March reading, market sources said.

"Consumer sentiment slipped in early April as rising oil prices, stock market volatility and Mideast tensions took their toll," Merrill Lynch economist Karen Dexter said.

Shopping malls did only moderate business.

Retail sales rose a milder-than-expected 0.2 percent in March from the previous month, the commerce department said.

"The consumer continues to spend money," said Naroff Economic Advisors president and chief economist Joel Naroff. "It is just that households are not out there shopping 'till they drop."

Wall Street took the data in its stride.

The barometer of blue-chip stocks, the Dow Jones industrials average, rose 14.74 points, or 0.14 percent, to close at 10,190.82.

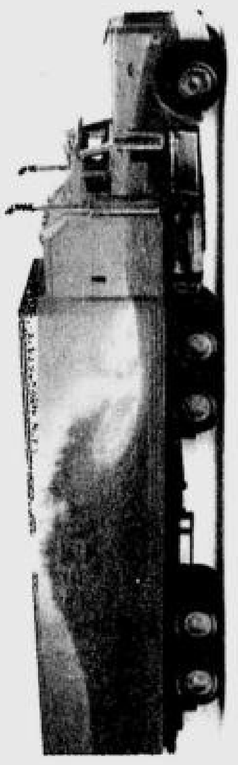
During the US economic slowdown last year, Federal Reserve policymakers slashed the target for the key federal funds rate from 6.50 percent to the current 40-year low of 1.75 percent.

The big question for investors is when they will retrace those steps. Policymakers on the Federal Open Market Committee are scheduled to meet on May 7, then June 25-26, Aug. 13 and Sept. 24.

"I think both reports argue for the Fed taking a very slow and easy approach to unwinding the monetary stimulus," Guatieri said.

The data indicated the Federal Reserve might make raise rates initially at its June meeting rather than in May, he said.

Wachovia's Silvia said the Federal Reserve might move to raise rates even later, in August and September, once the economy was clearly stronger and able to withstand the pressure. *AFP*



Bankruptcies in Japan up 5.9%–research firm

TOKYO—Bankruptcies in Japan rose 5.9 percent in fiscal 2001/02 and will stay at a high level in coming months as recession takes out more of the weaker companies and bad loan problems mount, a research firm said on Friday.

Teikoku Databank said the number of corporate bankruptcies in the business year that ended on March 31 came to 20,052, the second highest total since World War II.

Total debt held by firms that went bankrupt declined 37.9 percent from a year ago to 16.14 trillion yen ($122.8 billion), although that was still the second highest post-war total.

Teikoku said that although the government's assessment of the economy was improving, bankruptcy risks remained high.

"There are a lot of construction companies, retailers, manufacturers and non-bank financial institutions teetering on the brink of bankruptcy," it said in its report.

"It has already become impossible to stop the wave of shakeouts in these industries."

In March, the number of bankruptcies grew 4.4 percent compared with February to 1,788 cases, and the total debt owed by bankrupt companies jumped 60.5 percent to 2.04 trillion yen, breaking above 2 trillion yen for the first time in six months.

In comparison with March last year, corporate bankruptcies rose 5 percent but total debt was down 13.8 percent.

Japan's 136 banks are laboring under some 37 trillion yen of non-performing loans. Of that, more than 20 trillion yen of bad loans are held by the top seven banking groups.

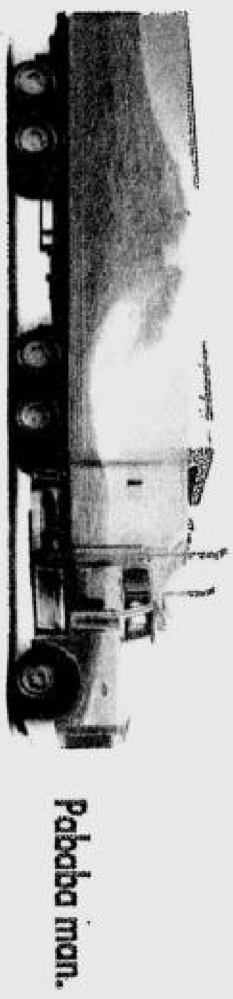
The government's Financial Services Agency (FSA) is due to announce the results of special inspections into shaky bank loans later on Friday. After the inspections, some banks are increasing provisions on loans to companies deemed close to bankruptcy.

Soichi Okuda, a senior economist at Aozora Bank, said corporations were under pressure from deflation on the one hand and credit tightening by the banks on the other. *Reuters*

UNL
1.38 9
DIESEL
1.34 9

WHOLESALE prices shot up one percent in March, lifted by the biggest jump in gasoline costs in nearly three years. Tensions in the Middle East and recent escalation of violence in the region have contributed to the rise in oil prices. If there is one potential wild card in the United States' economic recovery, it is the fear of an upward spiral in energy costs.

AP



Deutsche Bank's ambition to join big leagues faces impasse

FRANKFURT/LONDON—Germany's Deutsche Bank AG has fended off an approach from behemoth Citigroup but could be facing an impasse in its drive to join the world's biggest investment banks, banking sources say.

Hobbled by its relatively small size, sources say Deutsche's incoming chief executive Josef Ackermann has yet to resolve how to join the world's top ranks through a merger without surrendering the bank's authority and influence.

But Deutsche believes that only the biggest of the big investment banks will survive, and insiders at the bank say it is looking for a deal.

"The way our industry is going, it's going to continue to be a case of scale, scale, scale and really being a one-stop shop and really having a very strong balance sheet," said one Deutsche insider.

In recent months, Deutsche has tested the waters with US brokerage Merrill Lynch and UK retail giant Lloyds TSB, and has rejected an approach from Citigroup, the world's largest financial concern, say senior bankers.

The wildly different options illustrate Deutsche's challenges to survive in a field where a handful of huge investment banks will gobble up the lion's share of big business, leaving a limited array of niche players to scramble for the crumbs.

Ackermann—the Swiss-born head of Deutsche's investment banking business and a board member since 1996—is due to replace Rolf Breuer as chief executive in May.

Investment banking has been a strategic priority for Deutsche Bank since it bought US house Bankers Trust three years ago. While this drive is bearing fruit, only a merger could secure the bank's newfound "bulge bracket" status.

Its options are to join forces with a rival with similar ambitions, seek the shelter of a large group willing to let Deutsche enjoy autonomy, or to be swallowed by a bigger bank. Only if such avenues are cut off is it likely to go it alone.

Daunting task

Deutsche and rival Merrill Lynch have over the last two years entertained the possibility of a merger, but the most recent talks were very short-lived, a source with direct knowledge of the negotiations said.

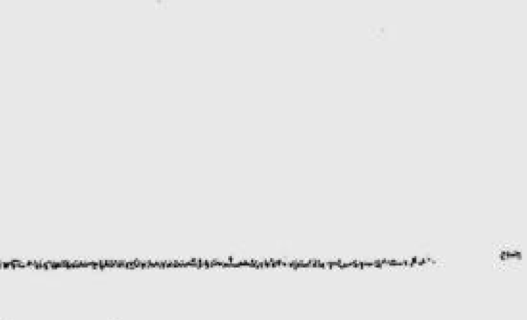
"There was certainly a conversation recently but that was the end of it," he said, saying a linkup remained highly unlikely. Merrill Lynch declined to comment.

Joining forces with an investment bank would lead to culture clashes, power struggles at practically every level and huge job losses as the two overlapping institutions fuse.

"If you were to merge Deutsche with Merrill or any of the other Top 5 firms, the scale of the redundancies is immense and in a service industry where your assets are your people, it is a daunting task," another source said.

Although there are no signs that Swiss-born Ackermann has considered talks with Switzerland's second largest financial group Credit Suisse, his contacts with the group where he was once a potential CEO remain excellent. *Reuters*

Shell Rimula ang maaasahan!



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BOJ upgrades economic view for 2nd month, cites reports

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan on Friday upgraded its view of the economy for a second straight month, adding to recent optimism that buoyant exports are dragging the nation out of its deepest recession in decades.

"Japan's economy is deteriorating, but at a somewhat more moderate pace," the BOJ said in its April report, using slightly more positive language than in March.

"Exports are gradually starting to increase as overseas economies show clear signs of recovery."

The BOJ's upgrade matches a similar move on Wednesday by the government, which also noted that a pickup in exports, helped by the weak yen, was a bright sign.

Underlining this, several big exporters including car maker Mazda Motor Corp. and game maker Nintendo Co. Ltd. this week announced that stronger overseas sales had boosted their profits for the just-ended business year.

Trade figures released on Thursday showed Japan's current account surplus widened for the fifth consecutive month in February, helped by recovering demand in the United States.

The agreement that the worst is over for the economy will reduce pressure on the BOJ's Policy Board to further ease its ultra-loose monetary policy. The BOJ left that policy unchanged on Thursday for a second straight month.

Analysts say that while it is unlikely to abandon its easing stance for at least another year, things would have to get much worse before it eases further.

Still cautious

But the BOJ added that caution was still in order, saying a full-fledged recovery would take time due to stubborn deflation and stalled consumer spending.

Economists say a huge backlog of bad loans is also paralyzing the banking system and preventing Japan from achieving a self-sustained recovery.

The Financial Services Agency (FSA) cast new light into the depths of its bad debt mess late on Friday with a widely awaited report on bank inspections, which forced the country's top seven banking groups to top up loan-loss charges by 1.9 trillion yen ($14.5 billion) for the year to March 31.

The banks will now write off 7.8 trillion yen for the latest business year, the FSA said. Japan's banks have bad debts of about 37 trillion yen ($282 billion).

The BOJ's report said banks and companies were still shy of making new investments and households were under pressure from falling incomes and rising unemployment.

"There is still uncertainty over the pace of recovery abroad, and exports should only recover moderately, and domestic demand is also likely to stay weak for a while," it said.

"Therefore it will likely take a long time before the overall economy stops declining."

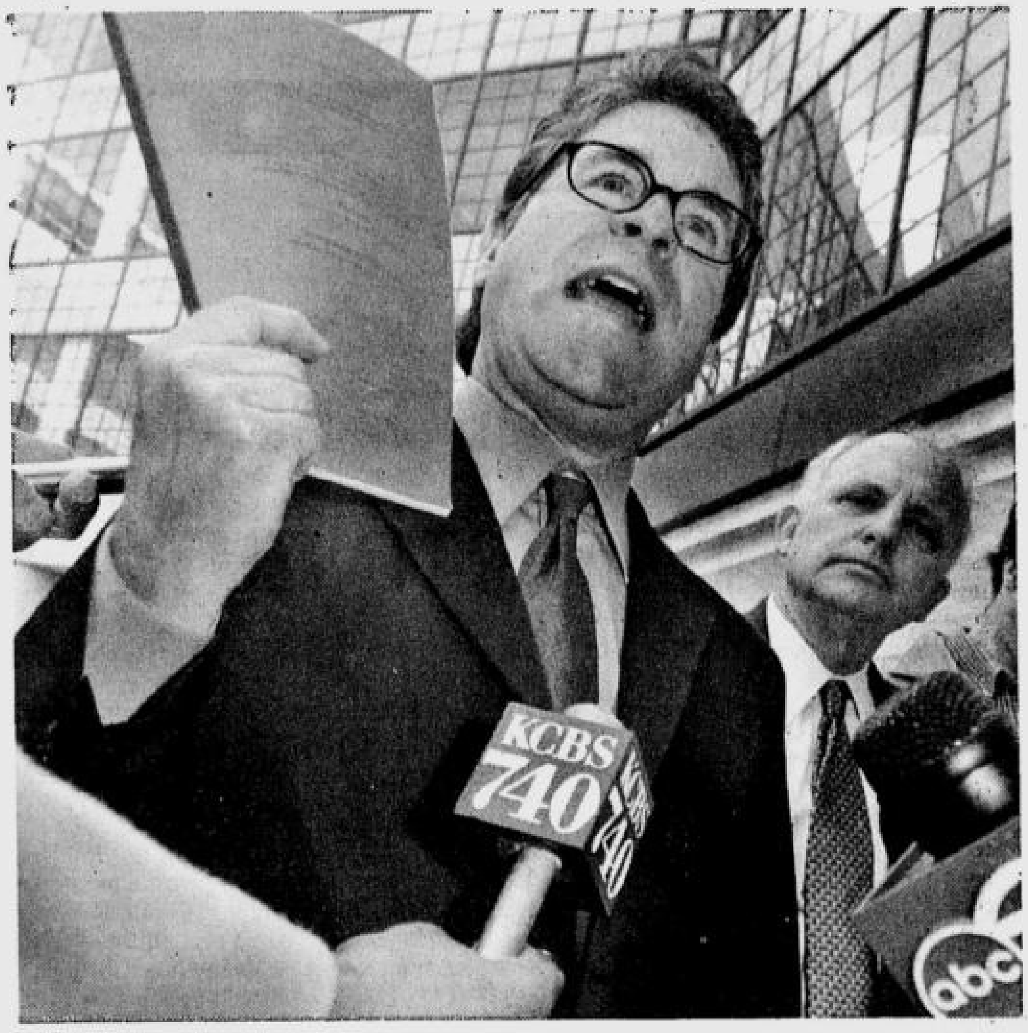
Nevertheless, it said, the economy would eventually improve.

"As long as exports keep recovering, we should eventually see output increase and corporate profits—especially those of manufacturers—improve, helping the overall economy stop deteriorating."

The BOJ also saw some hope in the weaker yen, saying it would likely help support domestic prices.

Prices would continue to fall, but the yen's weaker trend since last autumn would help keep domestic prices supported for the time being it said.

Reuters



HARVEY Rosenfield, president of The Foundation For Taxpayer And Consumer Rights holds up a copy of the lawsuit filed earlier to block what he alleges are illegal rate increases of $1,150 for residential and business taxpayers in the United States. AP

Overcapacity root cause of row over US steel import tariffs–O'Neill

LONDON—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said on Friday that worldwide overcapacity in the steel industry was the root cause of the row over US steel import tariffs.

Washington said last month that it would impose tariffs of up to 30 percent on a wide range of steel imports to protect its struggling domestic industry.

The move triggered criticism from around the world, and the European Union and Japan signaled on Thursday they were considering quick retaliation against the United States unless it moved to soften the measures.

In a joint press conference with Britain's Finance Minister Gordon Brown, O'Neill estimated there was about a 35-percent global overcapacity in steel making and said that until that was reduced, "this problem is not going away."

Brown said the two had discussed the steel import issue and that he hoped it would be resolved as quickly as possible.

The objective was toward open and freer trade rather than becoming embroiled in disputes, Brown said.

"We must not lose sight of the fact that we must remove barriers . . . and that the long-term trend is to break down regulatory hurdles," he added.

In an earlier interview on BBC radio, O'Neill said around 1,000 requests for exemptions to the steel tariffs were being looked at and he thought a "significant portion of them will be favorably decided."

Brown and O'Neill also held talks on clamping down on the financing of groups that sponsor terror, with each side saying it was up to every country in the world to do its utmost to identify potential suspects.

"This is not a war that can be won by countries waiting for the US to do the job," O'Neill said.

The campaign against the financing of terror groups was initiated by the United States after the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington and New York.

Brown said that at next week's semi-annual meetings in Washington of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank he expected pressure to be brought on all countries to set up units to more closely monitor and regulate financial crimes.

O'Neill was in London on the final leg of a four-day trip to Europe also taking in Germany and France.

Reuters

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HK still a tax haven but Singapore fast gaining

HONG KONG—High-income earners living in Hong Kong pay far less tax than their counterparts in other major financial centers around the world, but Singapore is closing the gap, according to accountancy Ernst and Young.

"We did a comparison (to other financial centers) and it is very clear. Hong Kong is a long way ahead. But Singapore is right up on the top rung with Hong Kong," said Ernst and Young Partner Mike Grover.

Singapore said on Thursday it would cut both personal and corporate tax rates to 20 percent within three years. At present, the top personal rate is 26 percent and the top corporate rate is 24.5 percent.

Some cuts would take effect immediately and would be announced in Singapore's budget on May 3.

In Hong Kong, the standard salaries tax rate is 15 percent and the corporate rate is 16 percent.

"People are saying, well it's 20 percent in Singapore but its still 15 percent in Hong Kong. But I think they are getting a wee bit complacent," said Grover.

Assuming that the tax cuts in Singapore would be adjusted pro rata across tax brackets, Ernst and Young determined that a married person with two children who earns $80,000 per year in Singapore would pay $6,596 in taxes, for an effective tax rate of 8.2 percent.

Before the tax cut, the same person would pay a marginal rate of 10.7 percent.

In Hong Kong, a person earning the same amount would pay $6,238 in taxes, an effective tax rate of 7.8 percent and $358 less than his Singapore counterpart.

A person making $120,000 would pay 10.9 percent of his income in taxes in Hong Kong, or $13,038. In Singapore, the taxman would take $12,851 or 10.7 percent of income.

So that person is better off living in Singapore.

But someone making $240,000 would want to choose Hong Kong, where the effective rate is 13.9 percent for a tax bill of $33,438. In Singapore, the bill would be $35,197, or 14.7 percent of income.

For such high flyers, taxes take a far smaller bite in Hong Kong and Singapore than in some other major Asian cities.

In Shanghai, regarded as the major contender for Hong Kong's mantle as the most important financial center for Greater China, the tax rate for earners pulling in $240,000 is 34.5 percent.

Taipei takes just under 30 percent, while Tokyo nabs a whopping 42.4 percent.

And there's no point escaping to the west. Taxpayers in the $240,000 range hand over more than 35 percent of their income in London and about 26 percent in New York.

Reuters

GM pares down its standard safety package

DETROIT, Michigan—Safety is something of a sacred cow in the auto industry.

So the news that General Motors Corp. will soon require consumers to pay for safety features as options that previously came as standard on many GM models earned the firm the kind of column inches it can easily do without this week.

The move will require motorists to pay extra for anti-lock braking systems (ABS) and side air bags on most of its 2003 model year vehicles except Cadillacs, Saabs and Corvettes. Side air bags will also remain on trucks and SUVs as well.

Safety activists said the decision sends the wrong signal.

"We feel very strongly that the technology should be standard," said Brian O'Neill, president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an independent auto research agency.

"This is a case of GM putting safety into reverse, in my opinion," said Clarence Ditlow, director of the Center for Automotive Safety, a Washington DC safety advocacy group.

Company officials insist the move will not put drivers and passengers at any additional risk for injury during an accident and that market forces oblige them to share the cost of this technology with consumers.

"We feel that we need to share some of the pain of providing safety technology to our customers," said Robert Lange, executive director for structure and safety integration at GM.

But critics like O'Neill believe the company is being short sighted.

The evidence on ABS may be mixed: Studies show that while it can reduce collisions in slick road conditions for example, it does not appear to reduce the overall incidence of crashes or fatal crashes.

But the technology that prevents a vehicle's wheels from locking up when the driver breaks sharply is an integral part of a relatively new system of "traction control" that helps prevent skidding in difficult situations.

These electronic stability systems or programs are rapidly appearing in certain luxury vehicles, such as BMW, Audi and Saab lines, and like most innovations are expected to migrate down the vehicle chain.

In its defense, GM says that consumers will still have the option to purchase the safety features as options when the new 2003 models hit dealers' lots later this year.

There was no word on what it might cost consumers, but the company estimates the cost of ABS and side air bags at $160 and $60 respectively.

And while the move—part of a wider drive to reduce material costs by eliminating non-essential content from its vehicles—will not shave anything off the purchase price of vehicles on dealers' lot, it will free up cash to invest in better quality interiors, the company says.

Auto analysts say US automakers have longed trailed their European rivals when it comes to stylish, quality interiors.

"A Cadillac doesn't have the same luxury feel as a BMW or a Lexus (Toyota's luxury brand)," said Carmen Pang, editor of a trade publication called Auto Interiors. "The leather on a Cadillac feels like plastic."

But, clearly, as GM vice chair and design guru Bob Lutz has acknowledged, eliminating cargo nets, rear seat head rests and plastic storage units is also all about the bottom line.

"This drive to add content has been the downfall for margins for this industry for as long as the industry has been around," Lutz told financial analysts at a conference in January this year.

AFP

Singapore consumer tax increase worries retailers

SINGAPORE—Singapore's sluggish retail industry must adjust to planned rises in consumer taxes as shoppers with already shallow pockets due to the recession limit spending next year, managers and analysts say.

Retailers are hoping that a rush for big items ahead of the changes, and as shoppers get used to the increase after that, will even out the initial losses in business.

"My initial reaction is that the patterns will be similar to 1994 (when GST or Goods and Services Tax was introduced)," said Terry O'Connor, managing director of household retailer Courts (Singapore) Ltd.

"There was something of a mini rush to buy big ticket items . . . we could see a rise in the sale of expensive television sets, or computers or main furniture items."

O'Connor cautioned, however, that present economic woes might curb the anticipated demand, and retailers find themselves striving to keep prices the same or to absorb the increases.

"The nice thing is that we've got time to plan, to work with our buyers and sources of supply, to see if we can breeze through it so to speak and keep prices down to the public."

Singapore's government has said it needed to raise the Goods and Services Tax to 5 from 3 percent in 2003, to offset revenue losses from cuts to corporate and personal taxes.

The plan calls for company and personal rates to be reduced to 20 percent in three years, with substantial cuts coming early, from 24.5 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

The changes, announced by a government-led panel on Thursday, aimed to improve the city-state's competitiveness and narrow the gap with rival business centers such as Hong Kong.

The government is expected to incorporate the plan into its May 3 budget.

Short-term boost

The government says the increase in GST, still among the lowest worldwide, will not hurt consumption as more disposable income is ploughed back into the retail sector and the economy that is emerging from its worst recession in four decades.

The authorities are also less concerned with consumer spending driving the economy than ensuring that exports, valued at 1.4 times gross domestic product (GDP), stays competitive.

Singapore's private consumption, which includes household and company expenses, stands around 40 percent of GDP. But with a population of 4 million and virtually no natural resources, the island-state is a net importer of goods.

Total retail value in 2001 at S$29.9 billion ($16.3 billion) was about 20 percent of total gross domestic product of S$153.5 billion.

Analysts said that even without the income and corporate tax reductions, the GST hike was inevitable as demographics change.

"The GST tax was expected. In an aging population it's more effective to tax consumption than profits or income," said Rajeev Malik, economist with JPMorgan Chase.

But he added that even with a 5-percent GST, Singapore would remain competitive in the region.

A cut in taxes for car ownership—with the call to place less emphasis on ownership measures but more on usage to curb road congestion—was also positive for car retailers.

Shopkeepers are hopeful the economy will be stronger next year, jobs will return—despite fears the unemployment rate could worsen in the second half of this year—and mindsets will change.

Reuters

Foreign direct investments to China surge by 27.5%

BEIJING—China's foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first quarter of this year increased by 27.5 percent from the same period last year to $10.1 billion, state media said Saturday.

In the same period, investment commitments or "contracted FDI," which give an indication of future invesment inflows, reached $17.9 billion during the first quarter, rising 11.4 percent from the same period last year, the Financial News reported.

Last year, China's FDI rose 14.9 percent compared with the previous year's, according to official figures, with actual FDI rising to $46.85 billion, while contracted FDI rose 10.43 percent to $69.19 billion.

China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) late last year is expected to encourage more foreign companies to invest in China as it opens its market— lifting restrictions on investment and lowering tariffs—in order to fulfil its agreements for accession.

A UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva in January estimated China will attract the most FDI among Asian countries in the years ahead because of its WTO entry.

AFP

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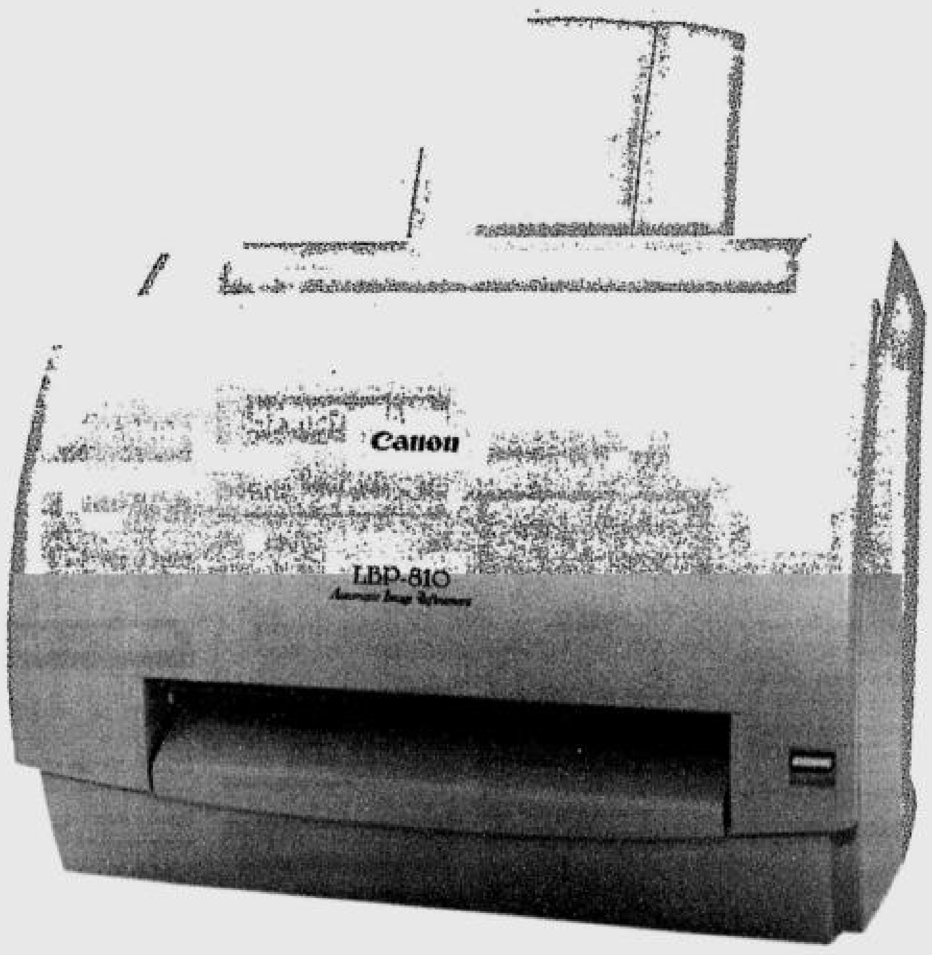

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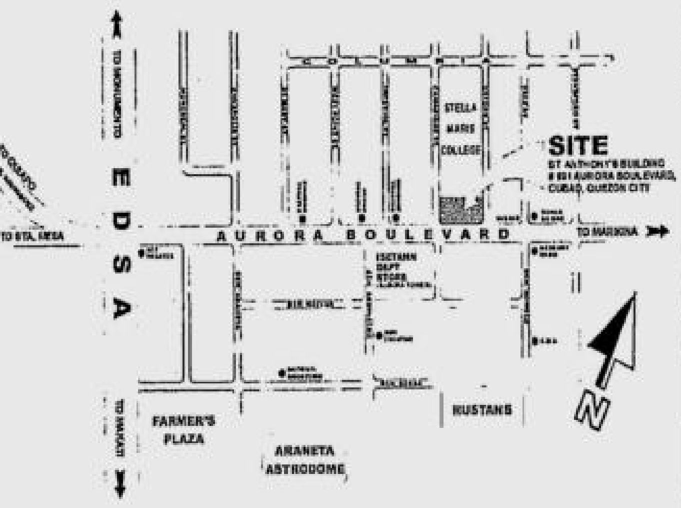

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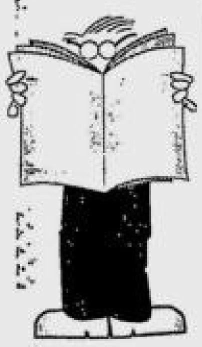

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INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 30 April 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS**:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
MEE-159	No. 8 Dona Alicia St., INA Executive Homes I, Levitown Estate Subd., Brgy. Don Bosco, Parañaque City	190 m² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) with buildings and improvements.	P 1,202,500.00
LDA-106	No. 13 Ubas St., Dona Josefa Subd., Brgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. 65213) with building and improvements.	P 1,174,500.00
LRD-121-A	Corner Chestnut and Cherry Sts., Rainbow Village 5 Phase II, Bagumbong, Caloocan City	295 m² residential lot (TCT No. C-342819).	P 664,000.00
LTY-102	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	436 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. 262159).	P 622,000.00
LJG-149	Lot 1 Blk. 18, cor. Lots 13 & 19, Golden Acres Subd., Talon Singko,Las Piñas City	236 m² residential lot (TCT No. 75082).	P 499,000.00
MEE-145	Corner of Road Lot 11 & 27, Congressional Model Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	228 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 334416).	P 405,000.00
LTY-103	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	242 m² residential lot (TCT No. 262158) with building and improvements.	P 386,000.00
BULACAN			
LTY-67	1729 Villarica Homes, Bo. Lolomboy, Bocaue	257 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-324365) with building and improvements	P 1,553,200.00
LJG-134	Bancal Ext., Bancal, Meycauayan	152 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-363653) with building and improvements.	P 698,800.00
VPI-31	G.L. Jaena St., Cityland, Green Breeze Village I, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria	200 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-295185 M).	P 185,000.00
CAVITE			
MGT-165	Bo. Talon, Amadeo,	2,322 m² untitled agro-residential lot (TD No. 97-12589) with building.	P 1,004,000.00
LRD-121-B	Corner Seoul and Sicily Sts., Pallas Athena Executive Subd., Phase II, Anabu, Imus	180 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-917917).	P 567,000.00
LRD-121-C	Sicily St., Pallas Athena Executive Subd., Phase II, Anabu, Imus	150 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-917918).	P 432,000.00
LAGUNA			
LJG-104	Camantigue St., Elvinda Village, Phase IV, San Vicente, San Pedro	192 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-457146).	P 507,000.00
QUEZON			
LJG-150	Brgy. Sampaloc I, Sariaya	10,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-367696).	P 660,000.00
RIZAL			
MMC-156	Bo. San Isidro, Antipolo City	2,537 m² adjoining two (2) parcels interior vacant farm lots (TCT Nos. 373101 & 373102).	P 1,267,800.00
VJC-97	Deerwood St., Camden Ext., Saint Martin de Porres, Brookside Hills, Twin Peak, Brgy. Bulao, Antipolo City	210 m² residential lot (TCT No. 385002) with building and improvement.	P 855,000.00
ZAMBALES			
LJG-147	Bo. Sinabacan, Candelaria	174,439 m² fishpond (TCT Nos. T-53917 to T-53921).	P 6,804,800.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
MBL-167	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Double Cab Pick-up, MAZDA.	P 155,000.00
LJG-131a to h	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	8 units various machinery and equipment used in the fabrication of local spare parts of industrial machines. (Sale on per unit basis)	P 10,700.00 to 131,200.00

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(PDI - April 15 & 16, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 60
Baguio City

BERNARDO AGANA,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and OSCAR M. HAMADA (in his official capacity as the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources),
Defendants.
x-----------------------------------x

CIVIL CASE NO. 4323-R
For
RECOVERY OF OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION, CERTIORARI, PROHIBITION AND DAMAGES

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1999, plaintiff through counsel filed a verified complaint, the same was amended on April 17, 2001, the Amended Complaint is quoted in toto, as follows:

"PLAINTIFF, through undersigned counsel and unto this Honorable Court, most respectfully states that:

1. Plaintiff is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City. WHEREAS, defendant ERWIN MENDOZA is a naturalized American Citizen, of legal age, married and with address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila, where he may be served with Summons and other court processes. The other defendant, GEORGE ESTILLORE, who is the caretaker of Erwin Mendoza, is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City, where he may be served with summons and other court processes;

2. Public defendant, HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA is the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City. He is a Filipino, of legal age, married and may be served with summons and other court processes at the Office of the Regional Executive Director, DENR, Diego Silang Street, Baguio City. Honorable Oscar M. Hamada is being sued herein in his official capacity as the Regional Director;

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

3. Sometimes in the early part of 1969, an area of more or less 4 hectares of the land situated at Residence Section "D", Polo Field, Baguio City, was allocated and distributed by the Bureau of Lands to the members of the Baguio Homeseekers Residence Association. Among the members to whom a portion of the said lot was designated is the herein plaintiff;

4. The portion of the lot assigned to the herein Plaintiff was designated as Lot No. 24. Plaintiff, since then, entered into the actual occupation and possession of the said property, introducing improvements thereon;

5. Upon having received his allocated parcel of land, plaintiff, on November 11, 1969, filed an application for a Miscellaneous Sales Patent over his area. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "A" and made part hereof is a Plaintiff's MSA over the area allocated to him;

6. In addition to filing his MSA, the Plaintiff likewise declared the land for taxation purposes under his name;

7. Since plaintiff was in the army and was assigned in Mindanao, he was not able to follow up his application. Nevertheless, he never abandoned his interest in his lot and, whenever he had the opportunity, he would take the necessary steps to perfect his ownership over the same;

8. On September 1992, during his infrequent follow up of his papers in Luzon, plaintiff found out that the lot which was allocated to him was being claimed by a certain person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA. Plaintiff found this out merely from the records of the Bureau of Lands;

9. On April 1993, Plaintiff acquired copies of his papers, pertinent to his lot application at Polo Field, Baguio City from the DENR Office No. 1-2, Bureau of Lands, Baguio City, and from thence, he found out for the first time that an order has been issued by the Officer-In-Charge of the said office, to the effect that Plaintiff's MSA was rejected and the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA was given due course for the reason that Plaintiff allegedly relinquished and waived his rights over the said parcel of land in favor of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA, through an affidavit of Assignment of Rights and Improvements dated February 9, 1976. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "B" and "C", respectively, are copies of the Order and the fictitious Affidavit;

10. Needless to say, the Affidavit allegedly executed by the herein Plaintiff waiving his rights in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA is a falsity. The signature of Plaintiff as appearing thereon is an absolute forgery. Coupled with this, at the time of the execution of the said Affidavit, Plaintiff was then in Mindanao discharging his tour of duty. It is then highly improbably, if not outright impossible for Plaintiff to have executed the said affidavit;

11. Furthermore, Plaintiff has never, not even once in his lifetime ever met a person by the name ERWIN MENDOZA;

12. And yet, despite all the improbabilities and anomalies existent in the MSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and the fictitious Affidavit of Waiver, Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA successfully deprived Plaintiff of his possession and ownership over the land which was awarded to him. In this regard, ERWIN MENDOZA, through his co-defendant and caretaker, has now occupied the premises in dispute;

13. And so, due to the anomalies existent in the rejection of Plaintiff's MSA and the acceptance of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA's MSA Plaintiff, on January 18, 1994, plaintiff filed and Administrative Protest before the DENR, questioning the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "D" and made part hereof is a copy of Plaintiff's Administrative Protest;

14. The Administrative Complaint filed by the Plaintiff remained unacted upon for a period of five (5) years due to absence of ERWIN MENDOZA. If ever ERWIN MENDOZA appeared, it was always through her mother. Serious doubts even exist if there is really a person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA;

15. At any rate, during the scheduled hearing for the administrative case, the only issue was whether the signature as appearing in the Affidavit was falsified. It might prove illuminating to stress that during the hearings Plaintiff was more than willing to make the necessary comparison of his signature with the signature appearing in the Affidavit. Yet, the necessary comparison could not be had because of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original of the Affidavit for examination;

16. Inspite of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original for proper examination of the signature, the public Defendant Hamada, proceed to resolve the case with grave abuse of discretion, amounting to lack of jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

17. During the hearings of the Administrative Protest filed by Plaintiff against ERWIN MENDOZA, there was never an instance that public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA, ever presided over the hearing. Not having presided over the hearings, it is then grave abuse of discretion on his part to have rendered an order without even having had the chance to consider the evidences, observe the demeanor of the witnesses and appreciate the case;

18. Perforce to say then, not having had any hand in the hearing of the administrative case, it is totally contrary to due process and fair play that he would decide the same. But he did. In fact, he rendered a hasty decision in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA;

19. But even granting without admitting that HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA was well within his rights to decide the case, his decision is contrary to precepts of evidence. As stated earlier, the original of the questioned Affidavit is in the possession of ERWIN MENDOZA. Even during the hearings, ERWIN MENDOZA, through her mother, always showed the original. When it was requested that the same be submitted for verification by the NBI, the mother of ERWIN MENDOZA refused. Despite this, the public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA decreed that "despite the long period of time afforded him, he failed." This condition smacks the elements of impartiality in a decision and neglects to observe the well enshrined presumption that evidence willfully suppressed would be adverse if presented;

20. There is no appeal from such order nor any plan, speedy and adequate remedy in the course of law;

21. A certified true copy of the order herein sought to be reviewed is hereto attached as ANNEX "E";

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

22. The Order of Respondent Oscar M. Hamada provides and allows the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA to be given further due course. But to give due course to the TSA of Erwin Mendoza, who, not even once appeared before the DENR, will be travesty of justice;

23. For one, ERWIN MENDOZA is not a Filipino. Furthermore, to process the application of ERWIN MENDOZA will deprive herein Plaintiff of his property without due process of law;

24. The proceedings, therefore, granting due course to the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA would be an act exercised without jurisdiction;

25. There is no appeal, nor any other plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law;

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

26. The surreptitious and fraudulent manner by which ERWIN MENDOZA transferred the property in his own name caused serious anxiety, moral shock, anger, sleepless nights on the part of the Plaintiff which feelings, if quantified in terms of money, would amount to FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00);

27. To serve as an example to others not to surreptitiously and fraudulently transfer properties in their names, the Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA should be assessed exemplary damages in the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00);

28. In order to protect and enforce his rights and interest, Plaintiff had to engage the services of a private counsel at a stipulated fee in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) plus an appearance fee of counsel in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per appearance in court;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed that judgement be rendered as follows:

1. That for all legal intents and purposes, the Plaintiff be declared as the rightful owner and possessor of that parcel of land covered by MSA No. 1-2, 436, situated along Polo Field, Navy Base, Baguio City;

2. Ordering the Defendants ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and all persons claiming under his name, to vacate the premises and turn over the peaceful possession over the above mentioned parcel of land;

3. Order the proceedings herein complained of to be forwith certified up for review and after due hearing, let judgement be rendered annulling or modifying the order of Regional Executive Director Oscar M. Hamada, as the law requires;

4. Ordering Respondent Oscar M. Hamada from further proceeding with the execution of the order on the processing of the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and that a writ of prohibition be issued to that effect;

5. Ordering private Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA to pay the following:

a. FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) as and by way of moral damages;

b. TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) as and by way of exemplary damages;

c. TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) as and by way of attorney's fees plus an amount equivalent to FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per counsel's appearance in court;

6. Plaintiff prays for such further reliefs just and equitable under the premises;

Baguio City, Philippines, February 22, 2001."

WHEREAS, Summons together with a copy of the Complaint and its annexes was issued for service to defendant ERWIN MENDOZA but the Sheriff's Return showed that the said process was UNSERVED on the grounds that there is no number as that of the given address and people residing at the said vicinity don't know the person of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2000, plaintiff through counsel, filed a Motion for Leave of Court to Serve Summons by Publication, said motion was granted by the Court in its Order dated July 6, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, you defendant ERWIN MENDOZA with last known address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila is hereby summoned through this medium of publication, you are therefore required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Baguio City your responsive pleading and/or answer to the above-quoted Amended Complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of last publication, serving at the same time a copy of your responsive pleading and/or answer upon plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Guillermo R. Bandonill, Jr. at Rm. 307 Laperal Building, Session Road, Baguio City and your failure to do so within the period herein prescribed will enable the plaintiff to take judgement against you and demand from the Honorable Court reliefs and remedies prayed for in the Amended Complaint.

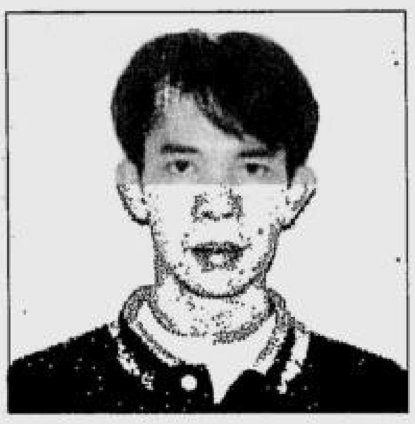
Let this Summons be published at the expense of the plaintiff in the Philippine Daily Inquirer a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and in Baguio City, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication shall not be later than April 7, 2002. Furthermore, let copy of this Summons and copy of the Amended Complaint and its Annexes be deposited with the Baguio City Post Office, postage pre-paid by registered mail with return card to the last known address of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE EDILBERTO T. CLARAVALL, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 25th day of March 2002.

(Sgd.) MONA LISA T. TABORA
Clerk of Court V

(PDI – Apr. 3, 10 & 15, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



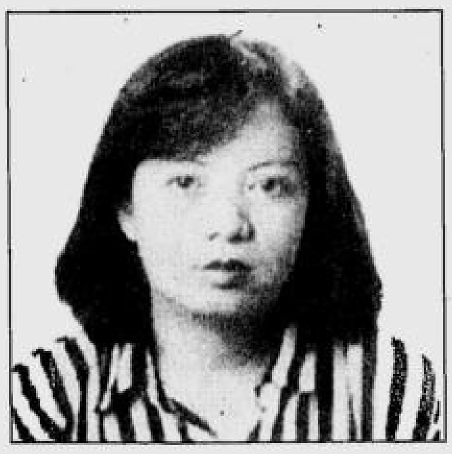
The public is notified that **EDGAR GAMBOA y MANALASTAS** whose picture appears above and whose last known address is Luna Bella Residence, Talamban, Cebu City has been issued Warrant of Arrest under Criminal Case No. CBU-59363 for ESTAFA by the Regional Trial Court Branch 6 Cebu City.

Mr. Gamboa is believed to be living in Baguio City, Pampanga or Tarlac.

Monetary reward will be given to anyone who could give information leading to his arrest. Please call (032) 233-8111 or cellphone No. 0917-3231367.

(PDI--April 15 & 21, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Ana Oliva A. Eraga whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **Jardine Land, Inc.** Her employment with the Company was terminated for a cause. Any transaction entered by her in behalf of Jardine Land, Inc. starting **March 3, 2002** will not be honored by the Company.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI - April 14 & 15, 2002)

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announce with deep sorrow the demise

of their beloved Vice Chairman and Director

MARIO D. CAMACHO

who joined His Creator on April 12, 2002

We Lovingly Remember
The First Death Anniversary

Maj. Gen. Felix V. Duenas, Jr.

His wife **Hedy**; children **Dondi, Gretchen & Jaymee**; parents **Duenie** and **Esma**; request relatives, friends and those whose lives he touched to join them in their prayers where Masses will be offered today, April 15 2002.

6:30 a.m.; 7:00 a.m.	
7:30 a.m.; 7:00 a.m.	**St. Ignatius Cathedral**, Camp Aguinaldo
6:00 a.m.	**St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish,** Ayala Alabang
6:15 a.m.	**St. Joseph's Church**, Pacdal, Baguio City
7:00 a.m.	**Baguio Metropolitan Cathedral**, Baguio City
7:00 a.m.	**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, 13th Avenue, Cubao
7:00 a.m.	**San Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila**, Pidac, Gen. Luna, Quezon
7:15 a.m.	**Our Lady of Grace**, AFP Logcom, Camp Aguinaldo
9:00 a.m.	**Basilica of Our Lady of Charity**, Agoo, La Union
12:05 p.m.	**Dizon Auditorium**, UA & P Ortigas Center, Pasig City
12:15 p.m.	**St. Patrick Basilica**, Ottawa, Ontario
5:15 p.m.	**Sto. Niño Cathedral**, Pagadian City
6:00 p.m.	**Christ the King Church**, Greenmeadows
7:00 p.m.	**Divine Infant Parish**, Ottawa, Ontario
7:00 p.m.	**Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish**, 18th Avenue, Cubao
	Holy Family Church, New York, New York
	St. Mary's Church, Lakeville, Connecticut

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*"I will bless you and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing."*
Genesis 12:2

SUSANA DELA PEÑA BAGSIC

(Retired District Supervisor)
of ORION, BATAAN and CALOOCAN CITY

*peacefully joined her Creator on April 13, 2002
at the age of 79.*

Her bereaved husband **PORFIRIO**; children **JUN & MALLY** (†); **EDITH & NOEL**; grandchildren **Kyla, Jed, Patrick, PM, Cris & Miguel**; brother **Pedro**; nephews, nieces and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Morning Breeze Subdivision, Caloocan City (April 14-17, 2002). To be transferred at Wawa Orion, Bataan on April 17, 2002 at 9:00 AM.

Interment will be on April 20, 2002 at the St. Michael Parish Cemetery, Orion, Bataan after the celebration of the 2:00 PM Holy Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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Call centers in, local dotcoms out

By Joel D. Pinaroc
INQ7.net

THE PHILIPPINE information technology (IT) industry, specifically local dotcoms, may be suffering, but a relatively new segment in the global IT business is expected to pick up the slack.

If projections from companies offering call center technologies are to be believed, call center service may be the country's ticket out of the prevailing economic doldrums.

Call centers are communications-based service centers that are being used by large companies to handle anything from customer complaints and inquiries to technical support, via e-mail, voice calls, video conferencing and computer telephony, among others. Call centers gained the attention of businesses after major foreign companies started establishing call centers in key points in the Philippines to handle voluminous customer-related transactions.

These call centers are a boon to the economy since an overwhelming majority employ thousands of English-speaking Filipinos as call center agents.

Executives of Avaya, a US-based firm specializing in call center technology, disclosed that the call center business will be a multimillion dollar industry in the coming years as more and more foreign companies find a rich source of manpower in the country, available at a fraction of the cost of establishing a similar call center in the United States or in Europe.

The call center industry for 2002 is expected to reach $374.4 million, $864 million in 2004 and more than $1 billion in 2008. And the call center industry is enjoying never-before seen support from the government.

"The call center industry was discussed in a meeting between (Avaya) executives and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, affirming that indeed, this industry has huge potentials" Mark Leigh, president of Avaya Asia Pacific said.

Avaya recently signed a partnership pact with the Call Center Academy, a local call center firm, for the establishment of what is seen as the first call center learning institution in the Philippines.

While the call center business is enjoying a boom, the local dotcom industry, save for a few firms which managed to remain afloat, continues to founder.

"The IT industry continues to fight on for its survival in this business. It's tough. We've seen companies closing shop already. I heard of three dotcoms that closed in the last four months and companies are cutting costs. Trade shows are heavily affected too," says Janette Toral, a recognized Internet expert and head of the Philippine E-Commerce Society or PICS.

"Last year, we can say that the environment is no different but the present times are getting much tougher."

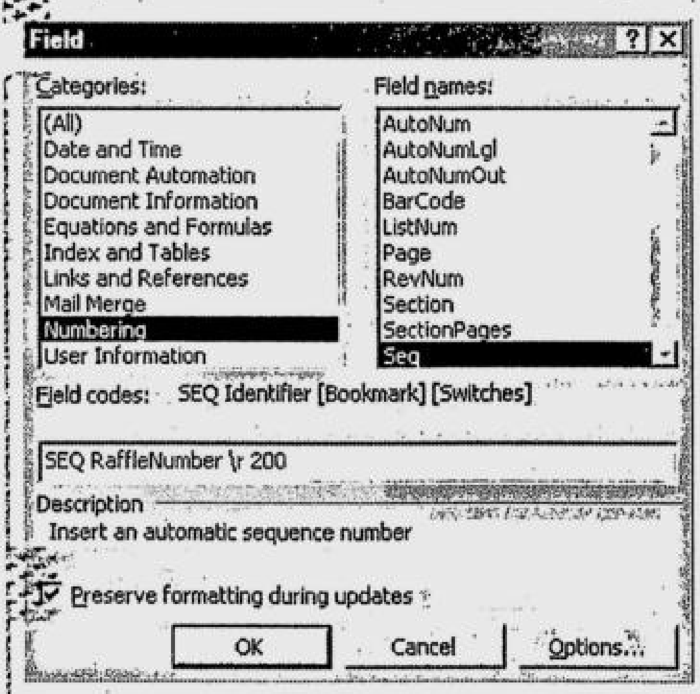
Even Pinoymail, arguably one of the biggest dotcoms in the Philippines, is encountering problems mainly on online advertising, the main revenue stream of local dotcoms.

"Advertising has been a disappointment for everybody and not only in the Internet industry but even in the mainstream media. There is a worldwide slump and it made business difficult, if not impossible, for many an Internet company," Dominic Danao, chair of Pinoymail said.

Although he disclosed that Pinoymail is "surviving," the worst is not yet over for online companies and the Internet industry as a whole.

Even online companies that have successfully mounted initial public offerings in the local stock exchange are reportedly suffering, as well as large, online media firms, which are backed by traditional brick-and-mortar companies.

"This year will be the year the field is smaller but the business environment is tighter. You have to have real value in the real world to survive," Danao said.



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By Jerry Liao

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6. Click OK
7. The first number sequence will be displayed.

For succeeding numbers:

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10. Type : SEQ RaffleNumber
11. Press F9
12. Repeat steps 8 to 11 for the succeeding numbers.

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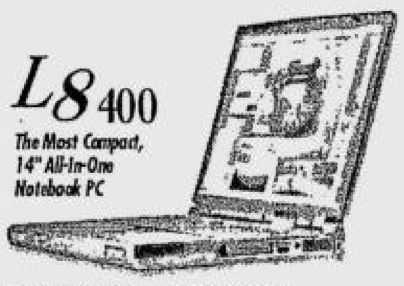

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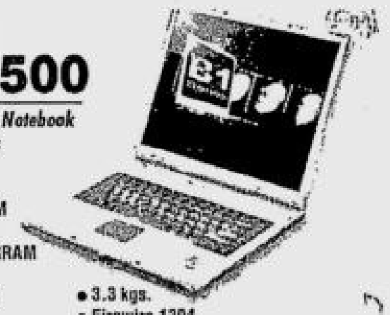

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AyalaPort to invest $4M in Net hosting biz

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

INTERNET data center AyalaPort Makati Inc. expects to spend $3-4 million this year alone, as it prepares to take in more local and regional customers requiring disaster recovery and hosting services for back-office operations, executives said on Friday.

Part of the company's investment this year will go to the acquisition of hardware from IBM, which would cost them roughly P5-15 million in the next 12 to 18 months.

"While IT budgets are shrinking, companies will be outsourcing their back-room operations to companies like us. It is fast becoming a trend because of the present economic situation," Abrigo Merin, general manager of AyalaPort, said.

Back-room operations include managing vast computer networks, tons of data and Internet access and security. It also means providing co-location (physically locating the company's network in a remote Internet data center), data back-up and disaster recovery services.

While such services have been available to companies for some time, Internet data centers have recently positioned themselves as hosts for these services to help companies cut down spending on technology and manpower.

"Companies will enjoy 20 to 30 percent cost savings from outsourcing it because they need not train people, manage their computer systems and networks," Merin said.

He said companies are now willing to pay Internet data centers an average of P2-5 million a month for taking care of their back-room operations. "The cost has also become predictable for companies," he added.

AyalaPort owns a 9,000-square meter facility in Makati, the country's central business district. About 2,000 sq. m. of this facility act as the Internet data center, according to Jimmy Son, head of sales and marketing of AyalaPort Makati. It currently employs 44 people.

Currently, AyalaPort claims to have more than 20 clients since it started operations early this year. Customers include multinational companies, Merin said.

AyalaPort is a joint-venture company of the Ayala Group of Companies and the Internet Initiative Japan (IIJ) Inc. Group.

Internet as a tool for environmental awareness

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

NOT only is the Internet transforming Philippine companies into e-businesses, but it is also proving to be an effective medium for increasing public awareness on environmental issues.

At the Philippine Schools Cyberfair awards held on April 6, Catanduanes State Colleges won in the environmental awareness and issues category for its Agojo Marine Park and Sanctuary site at www.geocities.com/ampsanctuary/ .

The Philippine Daily Inquirer sponsored the award for the environment category, in line with the broadsheet's commitment to protecting the environment and increasing public awareness on environmental issues.

"The Internet is really transforming the way information is disseminated to people, particularly to the youth. Technology has revolutionized the way we access information and collaborate with each other," said Celine R. Madamba, corporate relations manager of the INQUIRER.

The Philippine Schools Cyberfair awarding ceremony was held as part of the "YOU Summer Break Party" that formally launched INQ7.net's portal for the interactive youth. YOU at http://you.inq7.net is the umbrella site for three main channels: 2bU!, Cross-Campus and Junior Inquirer.

The Philippine Internet Commerce Society, Iskul.org and INQ7.net sponsored the Philippine Schools Cyberfair competition. INQ7.net also sponsored the award for the businesses and organizations category, which was won by Leyte National High School for its Pintados-Kasadyaan site at http://lnhs.alchemy.com.ph/.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint online news delivery company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

The other Philippine Schools Cyberfair (www.cyberfair.ph) winners are: Jubilee Christian Academy (Eastern Telecoms Historical Landmarks); MSC High School (Local Attractions—Natural and Man-Made); St. Benedict College (www.Iskul.Org Local Music and Art Forms); and Gregorio

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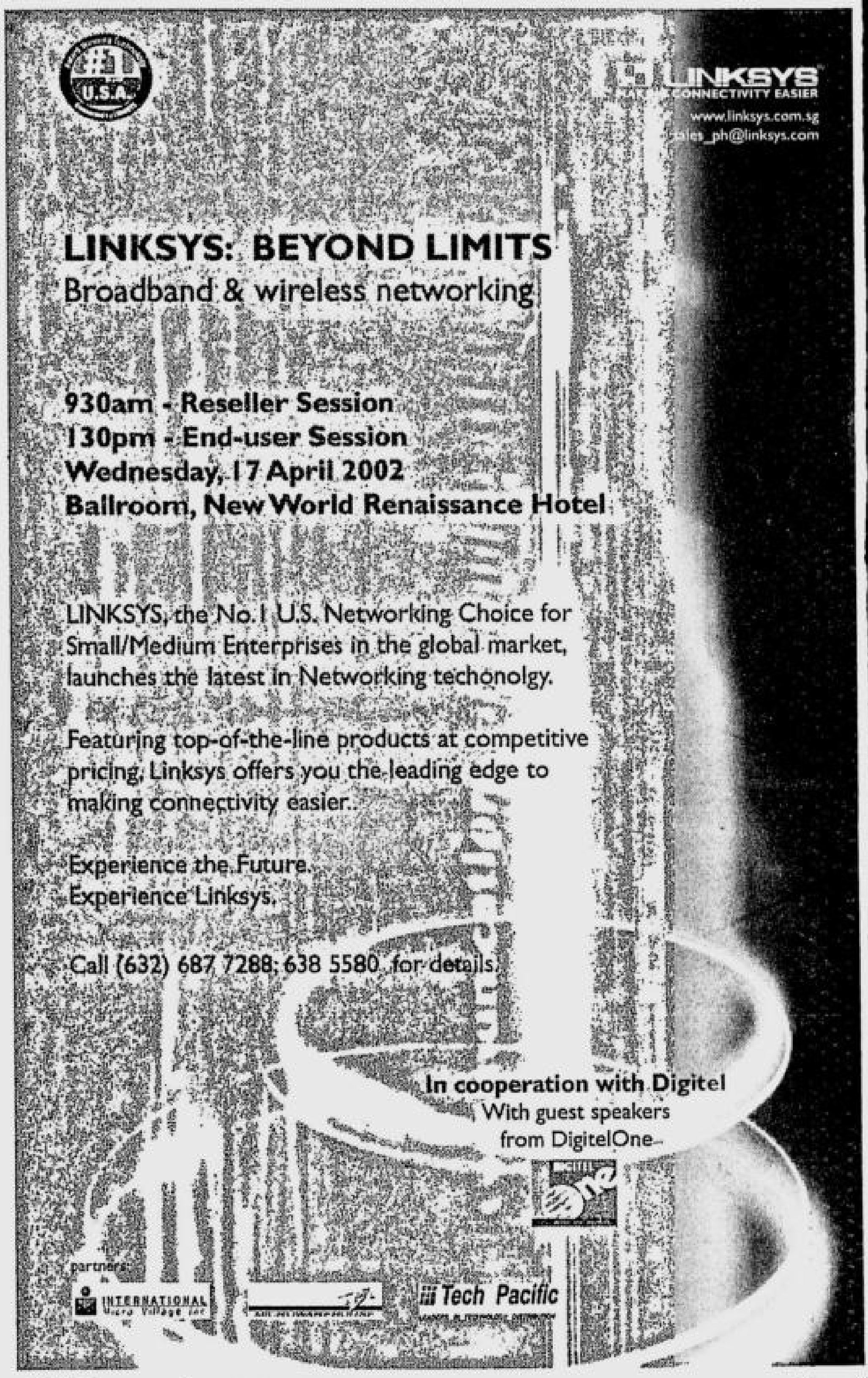

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BayanTrade eyes P10B in transactions in 2002

By Joel D. Pinaroc
INQ7.net

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Internet as a tool...

From page B20

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"The youth play a vital role in promoting environmental awareness. They are the stakeholders in the country's future. They should really take a proactive role in protecting the environment," Madamba said.

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THE INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL STUDIES AND EDUCATION, INC.

DAY ONE: May 3, 2002 Tuesday (8:30AM to 5:00 PM)

Overview of the Intellectual Property Protection System
(Historical Perspectives The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (State Policies, International Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to Which the Philippines is a Party)
by Atty. EMMA FRANCISCO, Director-General
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The Law on Patents
(Utility Models and Industrial Designs, Layout-Designs, Patent Cooperation Treaty, Other Matters)
The Law on Trademarks, Recent Developments and Issues
The Law on Copyright
by THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE STAFF

Voluntary and Compulsory Licensing
Rep. Act No. 8792 *(Electronic Commerce Act)*
Administrative and Judicial Bodies Involved in Intellectual Property Rights Registration and Enforcement
by THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE STAFF

Current Issues
(On Enterprise, Software, Shareware, Webware and Others)
by GERALD QUISUMBING
Vice President, Software Development of Q-Bros
MICHAEL VERNON GUERRERO
Vice President for IT Operations
Digital Management and Solutions, Inc.

Problems & Nuances in the Registration & Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
Enforceability of International Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to Which the Philippines is a Party
Other Major Issues
by Atty. RICO V. DOMINGO, Director
Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines
Member: Philippine Bar, New York State Bar and the Association Internationale pour la Protection Propriete Industrielle

DAY TWO: May 4, 2002 (9:00 A.M.- 12:00 N)

Other Current Issues like: Which persons have standing to assert IPRS? How may they be represented? Are these requirements for mandatory personal and appearances before the court of the right holder?
Future Trends / Legislations
by Atty. ELISEO P. OCAMPO, ICLSE Executive Chairman
Atty. ROMMEL N. CARIÑO, Head, Research Studies ICLSE
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Problems & Nuances in the Registration & Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
Enforceability of International Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to Which the Philippines Is a Party
Other Major Issues
by Atty. RICO V. DOMINGO, Director
Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines
Member: Philippine Bar, New York State Bar and the Association Internationale pour la Protection Proprieto Industrielle

DAY TWO: May 4, 2002 (9:00 A.M.- 12:00 N)

Other Current Issues like: Which persons have standing to assert IPRS? How may they be represented? Are these requirements for mandatory personal and appearances before the court of the right holder?
Future Trends / Legislations
by Atty. ELISEO P. OCAMPO, ICLSE Executive Chairman
Atty. ROMMEL N. CARIÑO, Head, Research Studies ICLSE
(With the Resource Participation of Senators Concerned)

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For further information about the seminar, please contact **Atty. Bunny Beltran and Ms. Donna Mendoza of the INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL STUDIES AND EDUCATION, INC.** Ocampo Heritage Building, 214 Wilson St. Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila Tel. Nos. 724-0595, 725-1481, 721-3452, 721-3470 Telefax No. 722-0432 E-mails: ocampolaw@mydestiny.net, gratik@mydestiny.net

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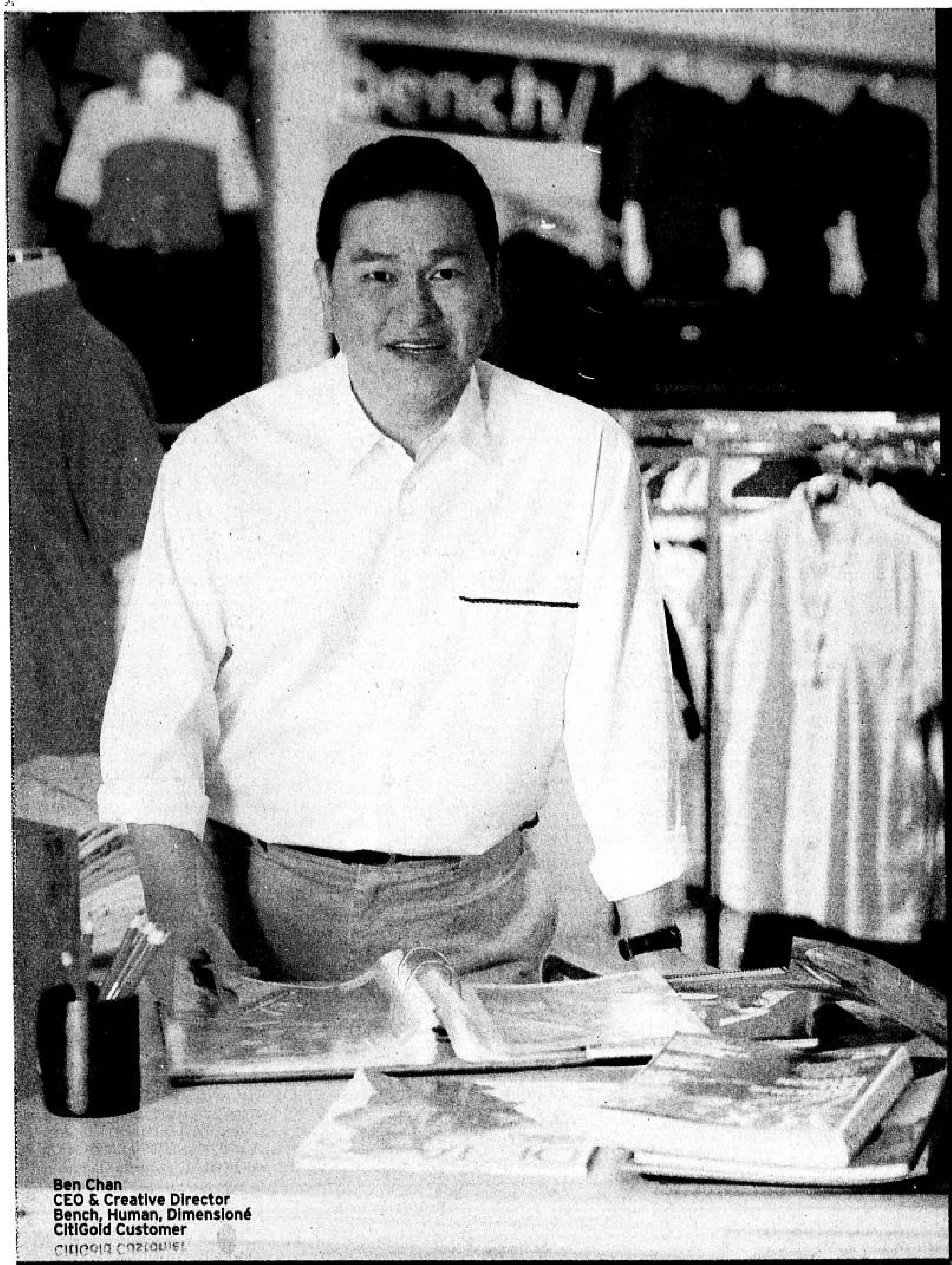

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BUSINESS*Monday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Creating a million jobs is possible

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

CITO Lorenzo said he decided to stop being part of the problem and started being part of the solution.

THE MAN who has been tasked to create one million jobs in less than four years once sold fresh juice to get enough money to buy *kropek* and *tira-tira* at his neighborhood sari-sari store.

Luis Paez Lorenzo Jr. was 10 years old and still did not get allowance. Such was the way his father, Moro, who laid the foundation for his family in agriculture, raised his children.

"In front of our house in Bukidnon, was a golf course. To earn money, I sold *calamansi* juice at the 14th tee box," he recalls.

He already played golf competitively at a young age and knew the golfers' habits. His location was strategic because it was one hole ahead of the usual refreshment stands and water station.

He sold *calamansi* juice for 25 centavos a glass and made enough for his goodies.

But that strategic thinking was further enhanced after a business management degree at the Ateneo de Manila where he graduated with honors.

Keen on expanding his father's businesses overseas, Lorenzo got a graduate degree on International Business from the Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania in 1982.

Perfect fit

As soon as he stepped out of graduate school, he stepped into his father's shoes and headed Lapanday Foods Corp.

The shoes fit perfectly and from that time on he expanded the firm until in 1996, the group acquired majority of Del Monte Philippines Inc. which he eventually listed at the Singapore Stock Exchange, the first Filipino firm to be traded in the bourse.

When Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II resigned at the height of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada in 2000, Lorenzo was offered his post.

But his reply to Estrada was a "No, I am sorry I cannot invite investors to come into the country under the current situation."

Estrada was very angry but everyone knows what happened next.

Today Lorenzo, more known as Cito, has been tasked to create one million jobs in the agricultural sector by 2004.

The figure seems daunting but in a memo to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lorenzo, who has a Cabinet ranking, stated that the task is near completion.

"About 794,164 jobs have been created," the memo stated.

The count on the jobs continues as data from government and private sector become available. Attached to the memo is the detailed report on the source, quality, and number of jobs generated from October last year to March this year. Of this, 198,541 jobs are sustainable. This means that jobs provided under this category require a minimum of 90 "man-days" because they were given production loans for at least one cropping, provided irrigation enabling farmers to increase cropping intensity, new technology, . . . or ability to reduce cost of production as result of agricultural reform as in the case of the reduced lease for cattle, or, cheaper corn through improved productivity as in the livestock-corn production.

Skeptics

The 595,623 jobs, on the other hand, are those created as a result of the primary livelihood activity generated in the farms. For example, these jobs are created in the construction sector when the irrigation facilities were built, or the jobs created in the milling and transport sectors as a result of the increased capacity produced by improved yields."

Skeptics of course are raising their brows on the pronouncements of Lorenzo and the President but the 44-year-old talks about his task with such passion and pride in his numbers, one can easily believe the statistics.

He was on the short list of those eyed for the position of Department of Agriculture secretary because of his vast experience in the sector that includes employing 15,000 among his firms.

Lapanday Holdings Corp., which owns 50 percent plus one share of Del Monte Philippines Inc., supplies 17 percent of the world's pineapple needs.

Lapanday Foods Corp. has captured 36 percent of the China banana market with the Philippines' "Mabuhay" brand.

But Lorenzo says he has taken a leave from Lapanday and the conglomerate is now under the able hands of a good management team he put together.

He feels he has achieved a lot in business and has come to the realization that he has been part of the

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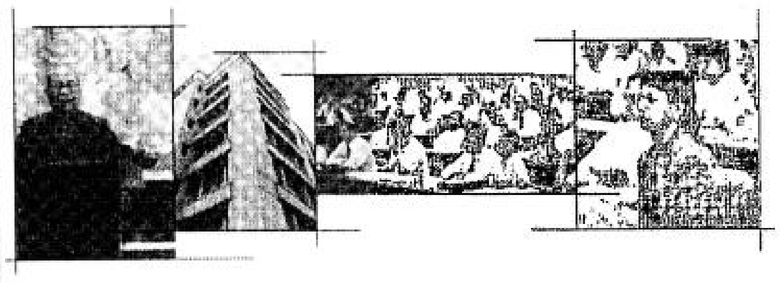

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Military training helps CEO in corporate battles

LAVIN

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANAGEMENT STYLES

LEADERS in the US Army learn the motto "service to the soldier," which means that the higher ranks should make sure that those in the front line are prepared for combat.

The motto applies not only in the battlefields of Desert Storm but also in the relatively safe and comfortable surroundings of a call center, such as the one of Ambergris Solutions Inc. headed by ex-military man Timothy Lavin.

Lavin was only 19 when he was deployed by the US Army to fight in the Persian Gulf as part of the ground war initiative of Desert Storm, and he stayed in the military service from 1989-1992, leaving with an Army Commendation Medal for his work during the Gulf War.

He describes his military experience as invaluable and at the same time applicable in his new task as chief operating officer of Ambergris Solutions Inc., a customer solutions center based in the Philippines.

"I often draw on my military experiences when building an operation. While serving in the US Army, morale was generally very high and in retrospect, I understand why," Lavin tells Business Monday.

"People want to be accepted, they want to be valued, they want to provide opinion and they want to be fairly evaluated, coached and challenged. They want to contribute to something good. In the Army that meant being able to accept ownership for personal actions, stay mentally sharp and work well as part of a team. Not a far cry at all from the call center environment," Lavin stresses.

Keeping up the morale of the front liners is especially important, he says, in a call center where the business success can be decided on the basis of one call alone to one customer service representative.

"The call center agent is our bread and butter and every action that a good operations manager takes should be focused on making the call center agent better prepared for the front lines," he adds.

Lavin has been applying these lessons from the military in the 10 years that he has been involved in the call center business.

Prior to joining Ambergris, he ran the largest contact center for TRX Inc. His firm handled over 10 million customer care calls a year for Expedia, Continental Airlines and Avis Rent-a-car, and transformed the poorest performing call center into one of the best, by reducing absenteeism and attrition rates, lowering handle times and improving availability.

He held every major position in the call center operation, beginning as an agent (with First USA Bank) and rising the ranks to become supervisor, quality manager and finally operations center manager and corporate officer.

Over the years he learned that effective communication is just as important in the military as it is in the corporate setting.

"Those in my chain of command made every effort to keep us focused on why we were fighting the war. I now understand how critical this level of communication is! I can only imagine how confused and upset I could have become, being oceans away from my family and friends, dodging scud missiles, with no understanding of why we were fighting. The same theory applies to call center management," Lavin says.

As chief executive, Lavin feels that it is important to keep the front line agents informed of the "big picture."

"Just imagine the dad that leaves his kids and wife each night to come work in the call center during the graveyard shift. I want him to be able to put his kids on his knee and explain to them why he needs to go to work each day," he says.

As Lavin says, the worse feeling in the world is to fight a battle without knowing why.

The American living in the Philippines wants to keep morale high so that the employees would go to work in high spirits, which is especially important in the business of handling customers day in and day out.

He encourages his employees to participate in setting goals for the company and in rewarding good performers. He believes that once good managers are in place, a culture of performance is implemented.

"Time is spent on educating agents on performance components and soliciting their "buy in." Going forward, agents are given consistent and accurate feedback, working sessions with supervisors and adherence to recognition and consequence management are adhered to," he says.

"I like to allow people to build their careers on a foundation of solid performance," he adds.

Lavin stresses that he is able to do well in the corporate world as he is fortunate enough to be able to draw from the best practices learned in both the military and world-class call center operations.

Banks boost profits by joining global trend and targeting retail

TOKYO—From a rush for car loans in Thailand to the birth of a market in mortgage-backed securities in China, banks across Asia are scrambling to boost profits and spread risk by joining the global trend to target retail borrowers.

While South Korean banks have embraced consumer lending so enthusiastically the central bank is worried about a housing market bubble, the drive elsewhere is uneven.

Bankers said the trend, underpinned by rising income levels, was entrenched and marked a sea-change from the focus on excessive lending to the corporate sector that helped usher in Asia's crippling 1997 financial crisis.

"Our business is still largely in corporate banking but we have already embarked on serious efforts to substantially increase our presence in the commercial and retail markets, which are fast expanding," said Omar Anwar, executive vice president in charge of retail banking at Indonesia's Bank Mandiri.

From an economic point of view, the thrust into retail banking is significant because it reinforces the gradual transition Asia is making from a model based on high savings, investment and exports to one in which consumer spending plays a greater role.

The stakes are high. Just as corporate over-investment triggered the 1997 crisis, Asia's excessive reliance on global demand for its exports, especially electronics, plunged some countries last year into their deepest recession on record.

If consumer spending, supported by bank lending, were to take up more of the slack, Asia would enjoy a more balanced growth mix that should reduce the amplitude of these boom-and-bust cycles.

Gradual loan growth

Geoffrey Barker, chief economist at HSBC in Hong Kong, said overall credit growth is perhaps the single most important indicator of whether recovery in Asia is domestically based or simply a result of rising exports.

Barker said in a report that a lack of such demand for capital was the tell-tale sign that Asia's post-crisis recovery in 1999-2000 was not deeply rooted because companies were still struggling to work off excess capacity and reduce debt.

"Over the past year, by contrast, there has been a gradual improvement in average Asian loan growth, adjusted for inflation," Barker wrote.

That growth, just 2 to 3 percent compared with pre-crisis rates of more than 15 percent, is being led by households. With capacity use rates still near levels seen at previous cyclical troughs, businesses have little incentive to invest in new plant and machinery. Only Korean firms are doing so.

By contrast, households are taking advantage of low interest rates, while banks, flush with liquidity, are keen to lend to consumers whom they view as better credit risks than their traditional corporate clients.

As a result, household credit (both mortgages and personal credit) now makes up 37 percent of total loans—it was less than 28 percent at the start of 1999—and is the first indication of a thaw in overall bank lending, Barker said.

Daniel Lian, a Singapore-based economist for Morgan Stanley, also believes Southeast Asian banks are on the threshold of jump-starting their lending.

"This is the most visible in the case of Thailand where finance companies have boosted lending growth 20 percent year on year by leveraging into consumers," he said in a note to clients.

Consumption signals crossed

Across the region as a whole, however, evidence from the consumer front is decidedly mixed.

Sales of cars and cheap houses might be spurting in Thailand, and a pre-election spending boom is under way in Korea.

But Indonesia's central bank has warned that household consumption is slowing and economists explained Hong Kong's first rise in retail sales volumes in six months, reported on Monday, as a quirk of the calendar.

Private-consumption optimists point to the prospect of improving job markets and continuing low interest rates, while skeptics such as Desmond Supple of Barclays Capital in Singapore cite a negative wealth effect from falling property prices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan.

Asians, instinctively inclined to save for tomorrow rather than spend today, are not about to adopt America's free-spending ways overnight. And their banks will take time to learn the marketing and risk-management skills required by retail banking.

But an international financial official said: economic theory suggests that the consumer-lending trend can only gather momentum: as people climb up from the bottom rungs of the income ladder, they take on more debt in relation to income.

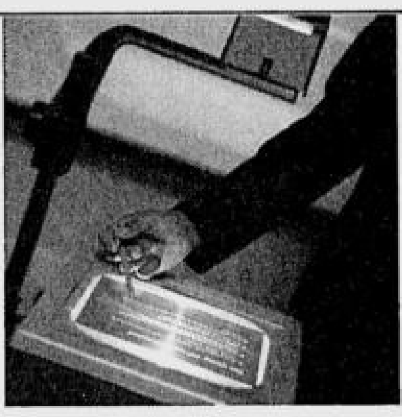
"Their GDP per capita would suggest there is more household debt than there is," he said. "An extreme case is the Indian banks, which are just now beginning to see the household sector as a possibly good, or at least diversifiable, borrower."

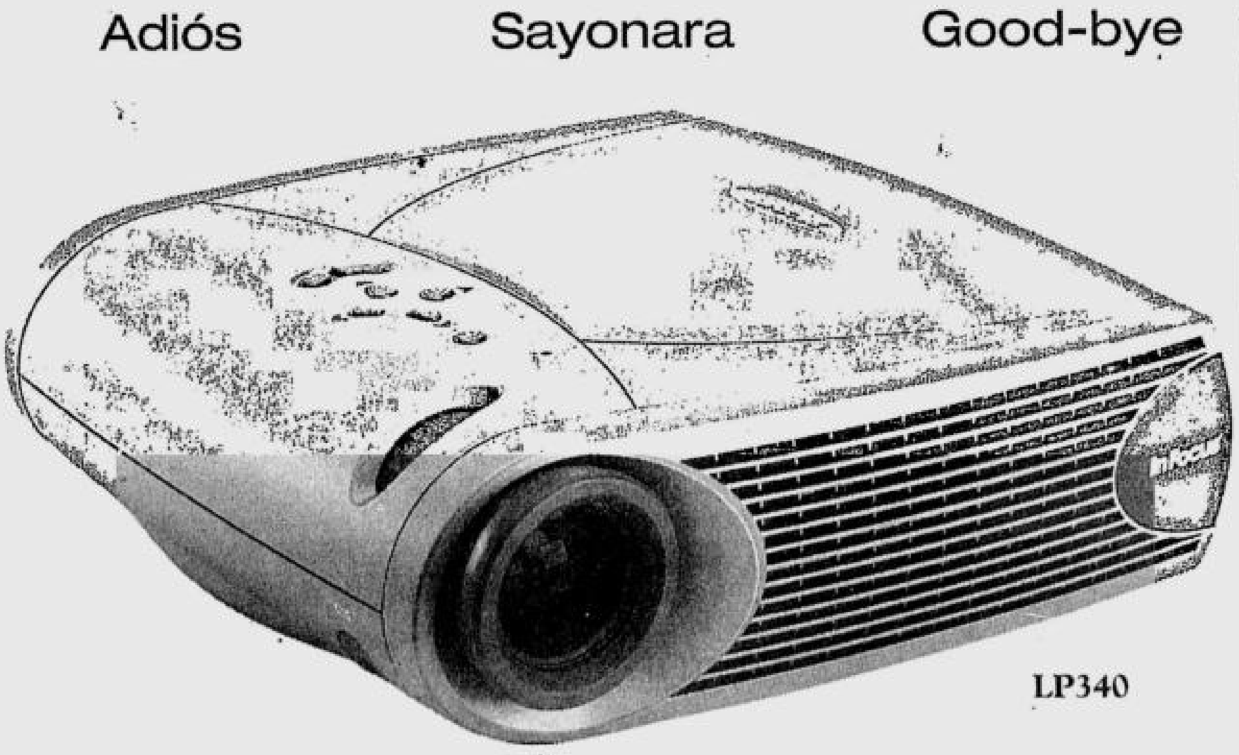
Barker of HSBC said it was interesting that, at the start of the present recovery, consumption turned up ahead of exports in Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

His conclusion? Asia is learning to stand on its own feet.

"Can Asian countries really grow autonomously? It would be foolish to suggest that they would be unscathed by another US slowdown and we are still forecasting a moderation in Asian growth later this year once the global restocking process is completed, but we suspect that any downturn will be modest," Barker said.

Reuters

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THE 44-year old says the focus of the country should be in its basic food supply.

Creating a million jobs . . .

From page C1

whining and complaining group that is the private sector and that it was time to stop being the problem and start being part of the solution.

That solution came when he was invited to join the Macapagal administration. He is the Presidential Adviser for Job Creation.

His major plus is he was able to build his conglomerate to be globally competitive in the agriculture sector.

Rice program

On top of his task to create a million jobs, Lorenzo has been put in charge of the Rice Program.

The irony is that the Philippines, while an agricultural society, does not even produce enough rice. It has to import. Only some 2.5 million hectares are planted to rice in the country. The Philippines consumes 13.5 million metric tons of rice in a year and production is much less so the country imports.

Lorenzo's thinking is that the Philippines has to adopt a mindset that rice is important.

In contrast, China, has 33 million has., half of which are planted with hybrid rice, a variety that has a higher yield on a per hectare basis.

Lorenzo says the Philippines produces an average of 3 to 4 tons of rice per ha. This has to be increased to 6.6 ha.

Self-sufficiency in rice is expected to be achieved in the Philippines by 2004.

"It's not a question of can we do it, we have to do it," states Lorenzo.

Lorenzo constantly monitors success stories in rice production. He cites one farm in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, which yields about P45,000 to P50,000 net income (before interest) per hectare.

Lorenzo, together with other government agencies and local government units, is working toward an education campaign among farmers about hybrid rice. However, this can only be planted in well-irrigated ricelands.

He says once the farmers have learned systems that will make them maximize rice production, they will be able to the transition to value crops.

There are two planting seasons in a year with each season lasting 110 to 120 days. Which is why ideally, a second crop should be planted on the land.

Lorenzo points out the need to help farmers increase their yields. "Once farmers have more cash in their pockets, we will have cheaper foods and as they have more disposable income, they will buy more goods and services."

Meantime, Lorenzo advises new graduates not to be too choosy in their first jobs.

He says there are jobs available for as long as the applicants are not picky. *(For those interested in looking for job openings, they can log on to http://phil-jobnet.dole.gov.ph)*

What is good news?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Evelyn R. Singson

FACED with a challenge to promote and build the good image of our country, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) sought the opinions of its members about the plan of its Board of Governors to spearhead the spread of Good News around.

The organization's membership has a huge stake in the revival of the country's economy, which can only be bolstered by news that builds confidence and produces positive perceptions of current and future events.

Naturally, 97 percent of the members overwhelmingly voted for the execution of the plan. It is perfectly right for MAP to take the lead in publicizing the Good News and ensuring that it creates a great impact on confidence building.

With the beating the country has received from the media, the country really needs the Good News!

Quite apart from the outcome of the survey are the comments shared by the respondents. Some of them are worth repeating for their wisdom, others for their humor and still others for their despair. But, no matter, these are worthy quotes that everyone can all learn from.

As we write about Good News, let us start with happy comments.

One comment asserts that "if we want to progress as a nation, we must have confidence in ourselves. Good News must publish 'feel good' stories that will counter the preponderance of negative and bleak news about our economy and our people. Outsiders who learn about us through the media must be presented with fair, objective and balanced pictures of our country and ourselves as well. After all, there are many good things about us that deserve publication."

There are members who are convinced that we can influence perceptions through the Good News. "A great many of us are driven by how we feel about the country's economy. Positive perception can help inspire, spur and catalyze the business community to higher levels of activity.

We need to change the collective level of consciousness of our people from cynicism and negativism to a more inspired outlook. We need to lift them from hopelessness and despair and reorient them toward the positive values of hard work, commitment, loyalty, sense of country and nationalism."

One foreigner member wrote to say that he has "not known any country where its citizenry criticizes itself endlessly as in the Philippines." He also cannot imagine how we "can attract anyone to invest in a country where these people cannot seem to say anything good about themselves nor appreciate themselves."

We all need morale boosters, news about people and companies who continue to succeed despite turbulent times. These stories inspire and motivate. They arouse in us the optimism that we need to help us develop a positive image of ourselves.

One member gushed with envy on how the Americans rallied together as a people after the Sept. 11 bombing, and how the American press cooperated to project the goodness generated by the event. Some were even saying that "the ailing economy got a boost as a result of the powerful spirit of nationhood that came to the fore after the tragedy."

If we spread good stories around and keep reinforcing them, soon enough our image will change for the better. This image will eventually lure tourists and investors to see for themselves how great our country is—the side that we hardly read about, unless we continue to do what we have begun now.

Of course, Good News cannot be fabricated nor spread as publicity stunts. It has to be true, credible, balanced, objective and worthwhile.

In the Good News, we will not discuss the bad news. We cannot allow them to overwhelm us or to kill our spirit in overcoming them. Instead, we will acknowledge that problems remain large and must be addressed with all seriousness.

Our job is to build everyone's hope for a better life and to firm up the belief that our country, the only one we have, has a bright future if we share in passing on the Good News and letting others know that they can do the same. *(The author is Board Member and Treasurer of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of APC Group, Inc. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

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THERE is a growing need these days for a skilled work force that functions at full throttle at minimal training and supervision. Fortunately, such supply of skilled work force abounds in the Philippines. But for these people to be properly identified and mobilized, an expert manager of human resource is needed to harness their potential and render them productive in appropriate and well-paying jobs. Manpower is the authority when it comes to such requirement.

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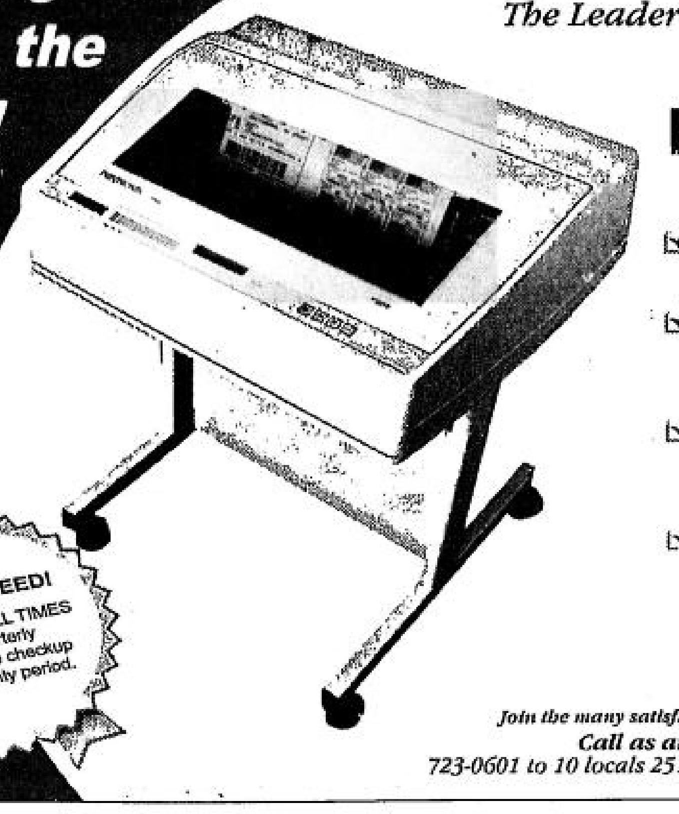

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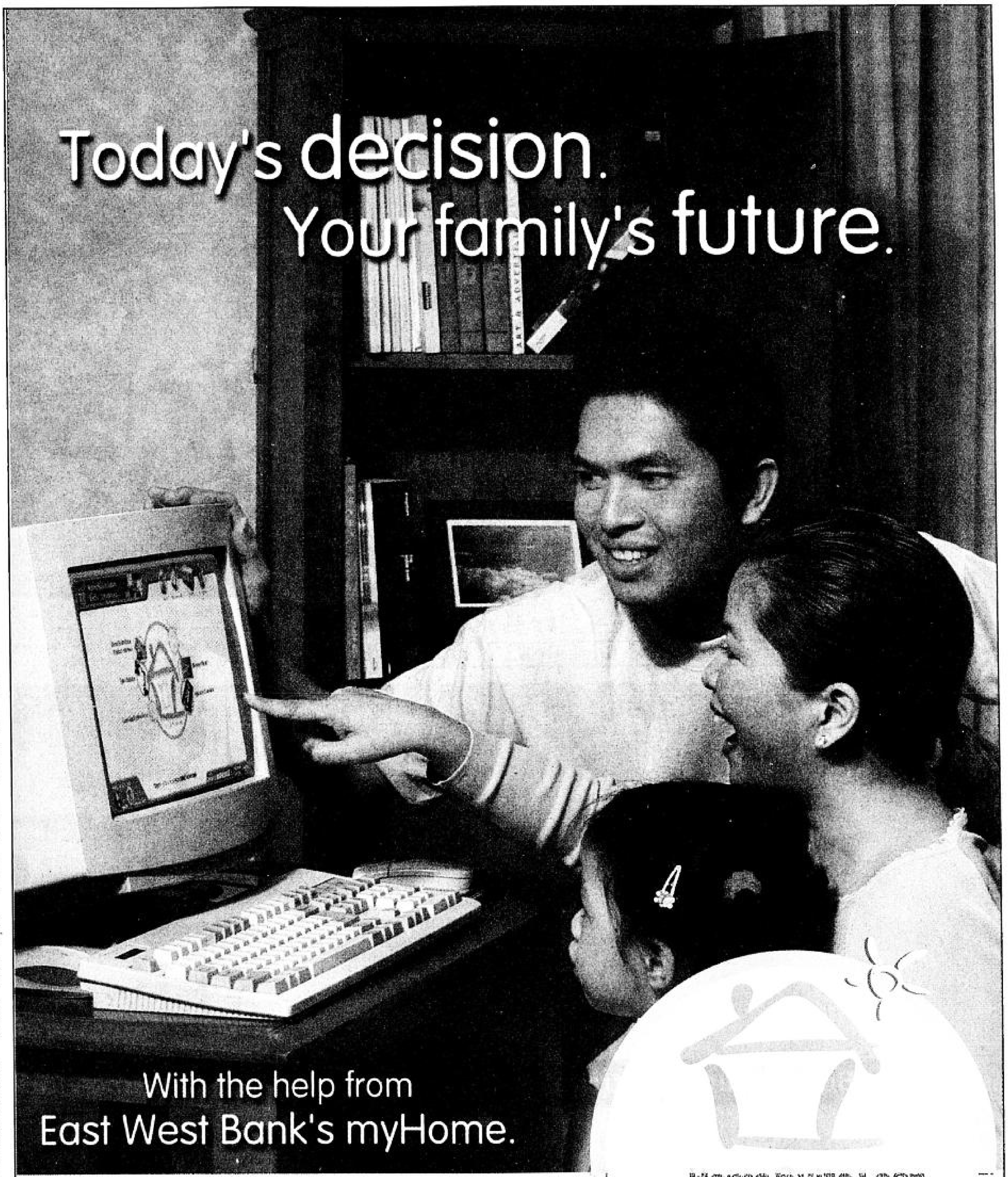

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PREDECESSOR NAMED 'SON OF PALAWAN'

Physicist steps in to head exploration firm

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV welcomed its new managing director Jeremy Cliff as it paid tribute to outgoing Spex chief David J. Greer at the Makati Shangri-La.

Cliff came to the Philippines after his stint as adviser and shareholder representative of Shell International for Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Before that, he was senior manager for Shell in several West African bases.

"My challenge is to also help grow the natural gas industry in the Philippines, especially since gas is both an indigenous resource and the cleanest fuel available," Cliff said.

The Englishman holds two masters degrees—one in Physics from the Oxford University in England and another in Petroleum Engineering from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

He took over Greer's post last month.

Greer, meanwhile, was hailed as "Son of Palawan" in recognition of his contribution to development efforts in the province.

After his feats in implementing the ambitious Malampaya project, the Scotsman will be heading a new exploration and production unit in Royal Dutch/Shell's offices in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The Malampaya project set records in putting up probably the biggest offshore production platform in the region earlier than scheduled and with no accidents involving workers.

Ronnel W. Domingo

DAN Martinez, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., former Napocor chief Jesus Alcordo, SGV chair Cesar Purisima and former Shell chief executive Oscar Reyes.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez (left) in a huddle with David Greer and former President Fidel V. Ramos

NEW Shell Exploration chief Jeremy Cliff (left) who replaced David Greer (right)

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos in a light moment with former Shell chief executive Oscar Reyes (left) and outgoing Shell Exploration chief David Greer.

NEW Shell Exploration chief Jeremy Cliff talks to reporters. PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

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May 28, 2002 (Tuesday)
Developing Personal Mastery
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center

"Personal mastery" is the phrase Peter Senge, author of "The Fifth Discipline," used for the discipline of personal growth and learning. He wrote that people with high levels of mastery are continually expanding their ability to create the results in life they truly seek. In this session, Mr. Cecilia will discuss the meaning and importance of personal mastery and the principles and practices which lay the groundwork for continually expanding personal mastery.

May 29, 2002 (Wednesday)
Increasing Your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.

Most experts now agree that those who climb the corporate ladder most quickly are those who possess a high degree of emotional intelligence or EQ. EQ is the ability to make your emotions work for you by using them in ways that produce the results you want. And the good news is, EQ can be developed and dramatically increased. Ms Santamaria will give an overview of emotional intelligence and provide a hands-on guide that people can use to amplify their own emotional intelligence.

May 30, 2002 (Thursday)
Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence
LIRIO O. MAPA, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc.

Synergy comes from the Greek work *synergos* which means an interaction in which the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects. In the competitive world of business, mere cooperation is no longer enough to achieve a leading edge. An organization should have synergy to ensure organizational excellence. Ms. Mapa will explain synergy and its critical role in enabling organizations to become great companies. She will outline the steps on how organizations can build synergy to sustain peak performance.

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron), Early bird discount of 10% for paid registration before May 13, Limited discounted balcony tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, call **414-0186, 414-0587**, e-mail **optima@edsamail.com.ph** or go to the office of **OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC.**, 2nd flr. Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave. (across ABS-CBN), South Triangle, Quezon City. Or visit the web site **www.match.ph** and click on the People at Work Live! banner ad.

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From page C3

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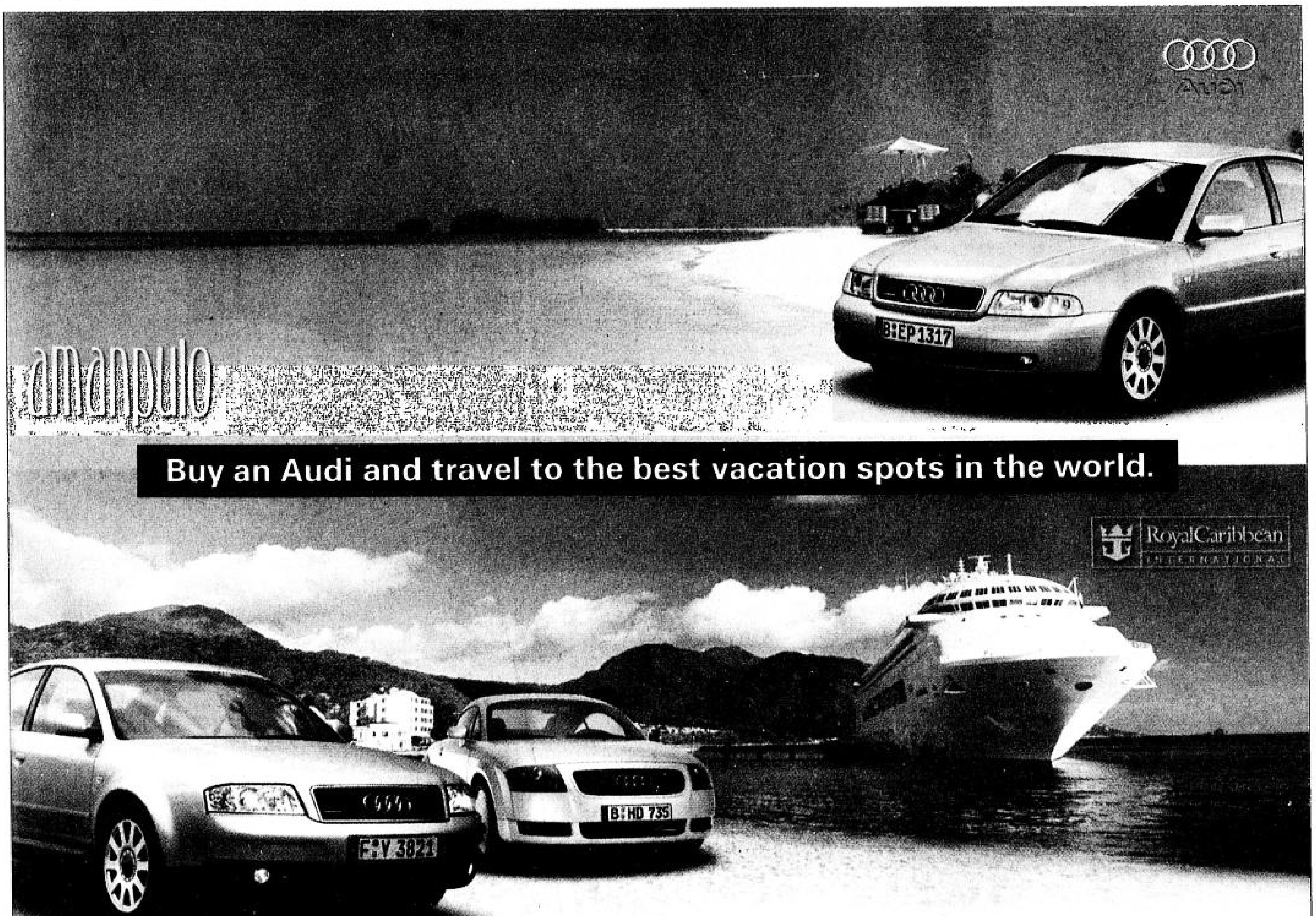
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0478 Series of 2002

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Big brains trump street-smarts on trading floor

NEW YORK—Daniel Mathisson and his team crunch complex algorithms at their computers all day long, but they are no geeky mathematicians—they are part of the new breed of Wall Street trader.

With the seismic shifts in the world of share dealing, the trader of the future is looking less like the captain of the football team and more like a member of the chess club.

"The type of people who work on trading floors are much more often going to be the skinny guys from MIT, and much less often the stereotypical trader," said Mathisson, who is head of electronic trading strategies at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Since the flashing screens and blinking lights of computers made their debut on trading floors, pundits and the press have been predicting traders would become extinct, replaced by machines that coldly and anonymously match buyers and sellers.

While that scenario has not come to pass just yet, the era of the stereotypical Wall Street trader—both celebrated and vilified in movies and popular culture as sharp-elbowed symbols of the American dream—may be drawing to a close.

Mathisson's team—like a growing number of tech-savvy traders—create programs to make the computer a tool for making small-scale pricing decisions, the task traditionally performed by traders.

In the new, profit-squeezed world of equity markets, firms are battling fiercely for market share and turning to more complex trading methods to squeeze more pennies out of each transaction. In an environment where a fractional advantage can make a difference, a mind for physics, math and computers is increasingly trumping street-smarts and gut instincts as the key traits of a stock trader.

"The trader of the future probably has a PhD in either mathematics or physics, is able to program in a number of different (computer) languages," said Michael Flood, a managing partner at executive search firm Westwood Partners. "I'm not saying the guy who has kind of a feel for the market is extinct, but the face of trading is certainly trending toward more quantitative."

Layoffs ravage

While technology is changing the face of the brokerage industry, so are hard times. The stock market's two-year descent from record highs to multiyear lows last fall has ravaged Wall Street, crimping trading volumes and prompting layoffs.

The securities industry cut 32,700 jobs last year, after hitting a record high of 776,400 employees in February 2001, according to the Securities Industry Association. Wall Street's heavy-hitters like Merrill Lynch and Credit Suisse First Boston have slashed thousands of jobs in dramatic restructurings.

While it's hard to say exactly how many of the job losses have come from trading operations, it's clear that the industry is in the midst of its worst pullback decades, said John Giesea, president of the Securities Traders Association.

"I've not seen it anywhere as severe," said Giesea, a 30-year Wall Street veteran. "This is probably the most serious challenge to the trading community."

US economic malaise and a severe stock market slump are a big part of the problem, but the onslaught of electronic trading systems has also helped de-humanize the business.

The anecdotal evidence is abundant.

Last year, the New York Stock Exchange, the world's biggest stock exchange, got rid of 150 trading clerks—known as floor reporters—whose jobs were replaced with automated systems.

About one-third of all Nasdaq market trading is now done through electronic trading, and some trading floors, once a cacophony of ringing phones and shouts, have quieted to the soft click of mouse buttons and fingers tapping on keyboards.

Video game wizards

That shift has also produced a much more rapid pace from the days when trading was done by phone.

"It's night and day," said Lance Zipper, managing director of equity trading at Brean Murray & Co., who has worked as a stock trader for 45 years. Since he started in the business, he said, the amount of time needed to do a trade has shrunk from five to 10 minutes to just seconds.

Trading at that lightning speed requires that traders have video-game reflexes, but also the kind of mathematical precision that computer-generated trading allows.

"You're playing with an electronic game when you're playing with your Nasdaq machine," said James Volk, co-director of institutional trading at D.A. Davidson & Co. "The guy who's the fastest, and the one who has the best strategy, is the one who gets the best executions."

But being a world-ranked master at Resident Evil or Doom isn't a guarantee of Wall Street employment, either, unless you also have the computer engineering skills to create those video game programs.

Penny for your thoughts

The bar for high-level trading skills, which has been rising for years, went up still further with the switch last year to listing stocks in pennies rather than fractions. That move has made it harder for many share dealers to make money—especially for traditional Nasdaq dealers, known as market makers.

Market makers, who essentially act as brokers, often pad profits by pocketing the spread between the price at which they buy stocks and the price at which they sell it. With decimalization, stocks can move by as little as one penny at a time, instead of the 1/16 of a dollar, or 6 cents, that used to be the smallest possible incremental change.

That reduced discrepancies between bid and ask prices, known as spreads, putting still more pressure on profits at share dealers.

"All of a sudden you couldn't make money the old way. You have to change now," said Brian Pears, head of equity trading at Victory Capital Management and a 10-year veteran of stock trading. "This is the last generation that is going to trade anything like what we've seen in the past 25 years."

While lofty degrees are not a prerequisite for traders just yet, a knowledge of complex trading methods has become increasingly important, said Douglas Hanslip, principal at executive recruiter Korn/Ferry International.

As investment banks and share dealers try to differentiate themselves in a highly competitive environment, they are beefing up their propriety operations, automating market making in cash trading and boosting trading in equity derivatives.

Market makers now must have a more in-depth knowledge of the sector they trade, be adept with technology and need to be able to quickly digest the flood of available information.

"In traditional trading, people have always been very good with numbers . . . but the rigorous academic, quantitative background wasn't necessary," Mathisson said. "That is gradually becoming—I wouldn't say necessary—but more valuable." *Reuters*

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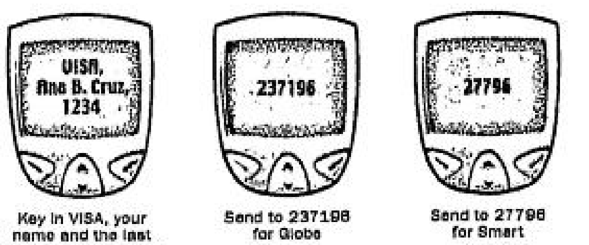

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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Nestle launches breakfast campaign

NESTLE Philippines Inc. (NPI) has launched the Mag-Nestle Almusal Breakfast Campaign, an initiative of the world's largest food company to promote good nutrition by calling attention to the role and value of breakfast in daily life.

Nestle Philippines EVP for marketing Yves Manghardt said the breakfast campaign aims to remind people of all agesmothers and young professionals in particularabout the importance of breakfast in the development and performance of children, and the health and well-being of adolescents and adults.

Breakfast, as the first meal of the day, provides nutrients that the body needs for energy after it has gone without food overnight. A good breakfast is one that's filling, appeals to the taste buds, has high nutritional value, is affordable, and is convenient to prepare.

Yet, despite the fact that people recognize the benefits of breakfast, they may neglect to take this meal regularly, because of time constraints and the need to hurry.

Manghardt said Nestle, as the food leader trusted worldwide to provide affordable food of high quality throughout the day through al stages of people's lives, offers a wide range of products appropriate for breakfast. These products meet the nutritional needs of different individuals, are tasty, and easy to prepare. Among these are Maggi Noodles which supplies carbohydrates; Nido and Bear Brand that provide calcium; Miloa Vitamin B packed energy drink, and the Nestle line of cereals enriched with Vitamin B6, B12, iron, calcium, protein and fiber that help physical growth and maintain a healthy body.

By the end of the campaign, Manghardt said Nestle hopes to help make breakfast a more regular habit among Filipinos, one that will contribute to the maintenance of good health and productivity.

BLOOMFIELDS FORMAL INAUGURATION

Bloomfields, Robinsons Land Corp.'s high-value residential project in Novaliches, Quezon City, was formally inaugurated during its grand open house by guest of honor Sec. Michael Defensor, chair of the House and Urban Development Coordinating Council. Assisting Defensor were (from left) Frederick D. Go, RLC COO and SVP, Jess I. Dungca, barangay captain of Barangay Pasong Putik, Father Jorge, and Danny E. Ignacio, RLC's high-rise buildings divisions general manager. Members of the project team were also present during the event. The residential project's first two phases were sold out in record time. This was attributed to the project's strategic location, its proximity to Robinsons Place Novaliches and Big R Supercenter, and beautiful architecture and well-planned designs.

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LEARN THE art of self-defense with combat aikido. Combat aikido is safe and easy to learn. It is practiced even by women and a children and a few weeks of study could provide you protection from common bodily assaults. Its techniques are based on the law of nature and it helps promote good health.

Combat aikido also develops discipline of mind and body, gives self-confidence, controls anxieties, enhances well-being and physical agility, develops emotional understanding, spiritual upliftment and mental abilities, and enables one to have physical control over emotions and feelings.

Training will be held every Saturday until the last week of May. Classes start on April 13. For inquiries, call Ronnie Tizon at 942-6288. Classes will be held at San Miguel Village Park (beside International School) in Makati City.

Search for cities with best aquatic resources management on

THE PHILIPPINES is blessed with vast aquatic resources as marine, inland and ground waters. Such resources are not only vital for national survival and security but also for the country's sustainable development.

To highlight and recognize the important role played by local government units (cities and municipalities) in the conservation and management of the aquatic resources in the country, the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology has launched the search for the country's cities and municipalities which have the best aquatic resources management plans and programs.

The PCAMRD considers it timely and appropriate to honor deserving local government units which have endeavored to conserve and wisely manage their aquatic resources in a responsible and sustainable manner for present and future generations. In serving as exemplary models for the sound management of the much exploited and stressed aquatic resources of the country, it is hoped that more LGUs will be inspired and motivated by their fine examples.

Nominations for the awards can be made by any individual, organization or institution using the nomination form that can be obtained from PCAMRD, which is serving as the Secretariat of the Awards. Cash prizes of P100,000, P75,000 and P50,000 are at stake.

The search ends on Nov. 30 and awarding of the winners will be held at the 15th anniversary celebration of the PCAMRD in January 2003.

Nominations forms can be obtained from any of the following offices: PCAMRD, Los Banos, Laguna (049-536-5579, Fax 049-536-1582) and PCAMRD liaison office (Room 205, PTRI Building, Bicutan) or through e-mail (pcamrd@laguna.net).

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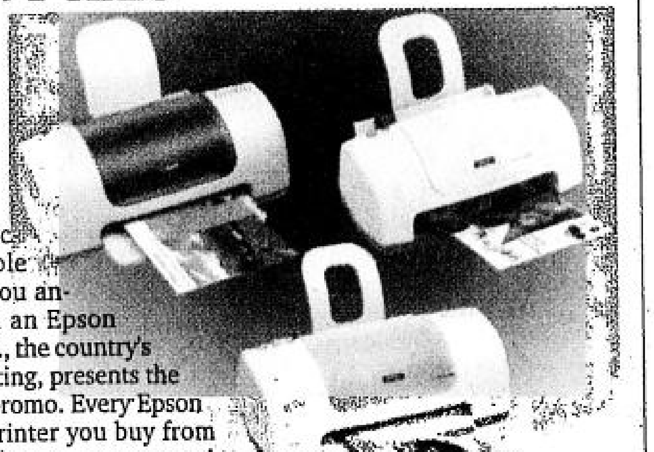
REVITALIZING FACIAL FOR MALLERS

Body & Soul, the exclusive distributor of Sanctum, Stuf, The Body Collection, Girl Boy and Marc Daniels, with 84 counters all over the country, recently launched the Beauty Zone, where it provides free facials to all mall shoppers with no purchase requirements. They also give out free spa gift certificates worth P500 or P1000 courtesy of Body & Soul International Skin Care Center. Shown is the Beauty Zone in Robinsons Place Ermita. It will also conduct a continuous tour in Robinson's Galleria. Malls and events organizers interested in inviting the Beauty Zone to be part of their promotions can call Body & Soul Inc at 911-5586, 911-5347, or fax 913-2717 and look for Charmaine Neri.

Product FILES



Epson Cinemania promo

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CODBAP SYMPOSIUM

The Council of Doctors in Business Administration of PSBA Manila (Codbap) recently conducted a symposium and roundtable discussion entitled 'A Competitive Strategic Direction In The New Economy' and 'Leadership Trends and Issues', held at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati. This was organized and arranged by Codbap president Tony Lopez, vice president Nel Buenaventura and Dr. Harry Lorenzo, director of Trinity Consultancy and Psychological Services.

AN L-300 TO VMLP

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. turned over a Mitsubishi L-300 Versa Van to the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines (VMLP) during a brief ceremony held April 9 at the Pagcor House parking lot. Pagcor chair and CEO Efraim C. Genuino is shown shaking hands with Las Piñas vice mayor and VMLP national president Louie Bustamante. With them are Mandaluyong vice mayor Jesse Cruz, VMLP executive vice president, Pasay vice mayor Tony Calixto, deputy treasurer, Malabon vice mayor Jayjay Yambao, national treasurer, and Navotas vice mayor Gardy Cruz, vice president for administration. The vehicle will be used to enhance the mobility of the VLMP members in attending to official affairs and other business-related matters.

PPHS Class '52 anniversary

Calling all graduates of Pangasinan Provincial High School (PPHS) Class 1952. Please contact any of the following for a meeting for the forthcoming golden anniversary of the PPHS Class '52: Gen. Fidel Singson at tel. no. 921-8688, Gen. Isidoro de Guzman at 724-7064 or Amanda Parras Castro at 372-2298.

Comeback for champion racing team

Team Autoplus makes a comeback to the circuit racing scene five years after dominating local circuit racing in 1995, 1996 and 1997 with ace driver Jody Coseteng at the wheel. In recent years the team set Philippine drag racing records in multiple categories. For 2002, the powerful combination of Autoplus and Jody Codeteng is reunited to challenge for top honors once again in both the Philippine National Touring Car series and the Blaze Super Saloon series.

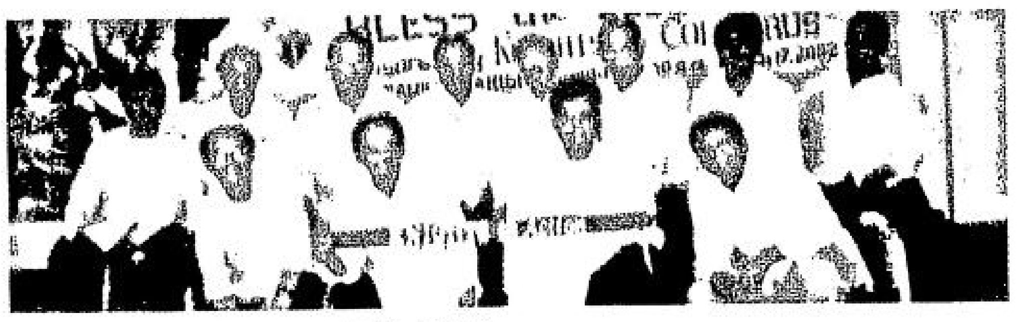
With a newly built racing car prepared at the high-tech facilities of Autoplus, Coseteng looks forward to continuing his impressive streak of wins this year. "Competition in the touring car class is very close now, with four or five cars capable of running at the front", commented Coseteng. "But we are confident we will be competitive, and I'm sure the car will be quick. My return to Team Autoplus is also special for me because my early major titles came while driving for Autoplus."

The 2002 series promises exciting wheel-to-wheel action as the country's top teams vie for the top of the podium. Lining up on the grid with Coseteng are both veteran and promising drivers like brothers

Kookie, Louis and Miguel Ramirez, Jojo Silverio, Nilo Pazcuogin, Mike Aguilar, Ferdie Ong, Mike Potenciano, Mike and Carlos Anton.

Further strengthening the Autoplus assault on the championship as sponsors are Globe Telecom, Caltex Philippines and San Miguel Corporation.

The comeback of Team Autoplus took off this Sunday, April 14, at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway with the start of the 2002 Blaze Super Saloon series coinciding with the Asian Festival of Speed.



KNIGHTS LOVE LOLO AND LOLA

The Knights of Columbus Council 5464 of Barangay San Isidro, Makati City, holds a quarterly project wherein it invites all senior citizens in the area to attend Sunday Mass and a short program afterwards, with snacks and gift-giving. The theme of the recent March celebration was 'Mahal Ko Si Lolo at Lola'. Shown at the front row are sir Francisco G. Madera, SK Lamberto S. Cordova, sir Pablito M. Raymundo, and SK Jose L. Besa. Shown at the second row are Ernesto B. Penaranda, district deputy SK Honorio C. Magundayao, SK Manuel L. Adao, grand knight SK Serafin O. Francia, deputy grand knight SK Dr. Edgardo V. Diaz, SK Lauro C. Dimailig, SK Melchor O. Masian and David M. Romarate.

FRIENDLY CLINIC VISITORS

Former US Ambassador to the Philippines Thomas Hubbard and wife Joan visited FriendlyCare's main clinic on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City recently. Hubbard was instrumental in the establishment of the chain of FriendlyCare clinics nationwide during his tenure as Ambassador. Posing in the main lobby with the Hubbards were Mon Atienza, FriendlyCare logistics manager, Carina Stover, chief of USAid, office for population, health and nutrition, Dr. Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr., FriendlyCare president and CEO, Abraham Co, board chair of FriendlyCare, Margie Moran Floriendo, FriendlyCare board member, and Dr. Yvonette Duque, FriendlyCare area manager, south GMA.

Thirty-year-old story of how VHS beat Betamax serves as inspiration for troubled Japan

YOKOHAMA, Japan—In the courtyard of a dingy electronics factory, several hundred workers in blue uniforms huddle together to form the letters VHS that can be clearly read from above.

Cameras are rolling on the rooftop of the Victor Co. of Japan plant, shooting the climactic scene from "The Sun Will Rise Again"—a film about how a relatively small Japanese company went on to beat mighty Sony Corp.'s Betamax and develop the world standard for the home video machine.

The story of VHS, which stands for "video home system," is 30 years old. But it's striking a chord with Japan today when this nation has lost much of its confidence of the past, having battled a decade-long downturn that has worsened in the past year.

Crushed by the global slump and competition from Asian rivals, Japan's electronics powerhouses, including Victor's parent, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., are sinking into deep losses.

"Maybe the victory of those times can help rekindle energy today," said Hideo Shimizu, a 48-year-old Victor worker who was thrilled to play his little part, helping make the letter "S."

The scene is based on a real-life event at Victor, the company famous for the emblem of the dog listening with a cocked head to a recording of its master's voice. The human letters were created in praise of section chief Shizuo Takano, fondly remembered at Victor as "Mr. VHS."

The VHS saga has inspired many in Japan. The story was an episode for a recent hit TV show about the heroes of Japan's industrialization. The new film is set for release here in June.

"The film shows both the limitations and the potential of the individual," said Masaaki Sato, who wrote the book on which the film is based. "It's all about people, and that hasn't changed."

Those who remember Takano say he was the perfect boss—unpretentious, hardworking and passionate. He despised favoritism and office politics.

Before the arrival of VHS, Takano's section had been branded as outcasts "by the window," the Japanese phrase for has-been, unproductive employees.

Takano, then 47, knew his section was doomed, bleeding losses from a disastrous industrial model of the videotape recorder that was flooding the company with complaints from clients. Pressures were high for job cuts.

Takano took his last chance. He chose a handful of engineers to secretly begin developing the platform for a consumer video deck although the common wisdom those days was that no one could beat Sony.

In 1975, Sony's Betamax video recorder went on sale, beating VHS by a year. But Sony was not as open with sharing its technology with rival companies as was Takano, who believed the standard had to become widespread if Victor hoped to win in the long run.

Sony's mistake proved fatal and it lost the video format war. The technology used in the millions of video recorders around the world is Victor's.

And Takano did it all, admirers say, without laying off a single worker.

Ken Watanabe, the actor who plays Takano's initially skeptical sidekick, says the message is that every ordinary employee has a crack at a dream.

"All people have that potential," Watanabe said. "This is the drama of how people worked hard to overcome a wall. We're facing a new wall now, and it's telling us to return to our roots."

Whether the success of VHS can be replayed remains dubious.

Japan's years of growth that accompanied modernization are over. Consumer needs have shifted from basic home appliances to more sophisticated products.

Even VHS hasn't been enough for Victor. The company has lost money two of the last three fiscal years and is forecasting losses for the year that just ended March 31.

And with the advent of DVD, the bulkier video is rapidly growing obsolete. Victor workers are the first to admit they must continue to lead in new technologies.

But Takano's supporters say his philosophy of believing in his workers remains especially relevant today when companies can no longer churn out commodities and must nurture creativity.

"If only we had a manager like Mr. Takano today," said Mitsuo Sugaya, 60, who worked under Takano. "All managers think about these days is short-term profit."

In his retirement speech, Takano shrugged off his achievements. **AP**

MOVEMENTS

New DOF Undersecretary

FERRER JR.

INOCENCIO Ferrer Jr. is the new undersecretary of the Finance Department and chief of staff, replacing Antonio M. Bernardo who now serves as Customs commissioner.

He took his oath of office before Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Ferrer finished his Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 1977 at the Ateneo de Manila University and law at the UP College of Law where he graduated ninth in his class in 1981.

He has over 20 years experience as a trial and corporate lawyer and was former president of the Licensing Executives Society of the Philippines.

Ferrer was former director and chair of the contracts review committee of the National Power Corp. during Secretary Camacho's brief tenure as energy secretary.

Ferrer is the son of the late congressman and SSS Commissioner Inocencio V. Ferrer Sr. of the second district of Negros Occidental.

New marketing head

BELARMINO

PLATINUM Plans recently announced the appointment of Goodwin V. Belarmino as vice president for marketing.

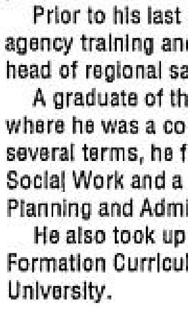
Before joining Platinum Plans, Belarmino had a long stint with another leading pre-need company where he last headed the human resource and development division as senior assistant vice president.

Prior to his last assignment, he handled agency training and development and was also head of regional sales.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines where he was a college and university scholar for several terms, he finished a bachelor's degree in Social Work and a master's degree in Social Planning and Administration.

He also took up Philosophy under the Jesuit Formation Curriculum at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Viva's new CCO



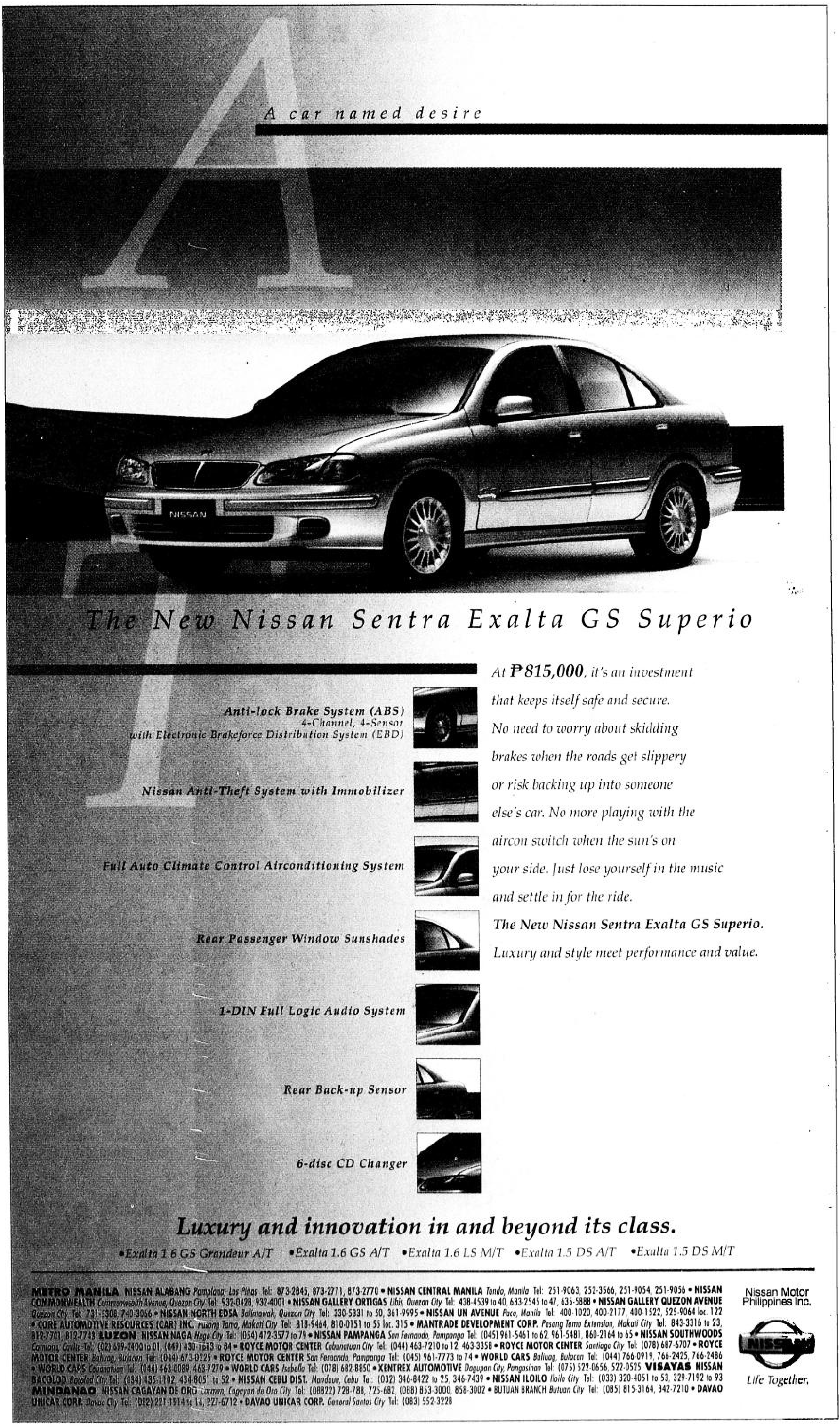
GARCIA

VIVA chair Vic del Rosario Jr. recently appointed Dennis Garcia as the conglomerate's chief creative officer.

Prior to joining Viva, Garcia was executive create director and board member of FCB Worldwide which he helped shape into the fastest growing ad agency in the country.

Garcia's talents span several diverse disciplines: advertising strategy development, creative conceptualization, film and audio production and hit songwriting.

Del Rosario stressed that Garcia's appointment would further strengthen Viva's creative product while accelerating the group's quest to be the most exciting entertainment company in the region.



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Life Together.

GSIS chief slims down, beefs up for job

By Raul C. Dancel

WINSTON GARCIA: 12 pounds more to go.

HE lost 50 pounds after one year in office, but Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia will tell you that the dramatic weight loss is hardly job-related. He was able to trim down from 210 pounds to about 160 pounds at present, and he hopes to shed about 12 pounds more.

"I am just really following doctor's orders. I have to lose weight if I want to be in tiptop shape and perform my duties as general manager of GSIS," Garcia, 43, told the INQUIRER.

If there is one thing that Garcia could not shake off is a faction of the GSIS union that has been calling for his ouster since Day One. This noisy bunch alleges that he does not deserve the post.

Asked why he thinks he was appointed to the plum GSIS post, Garcia said: "I guess they have seen what I have done in Cebu as an adviser to then Governor Lito Osmeña. We were able to securitize our bad assets and raise cheap funds from these non-performing assets to build roads and provide electricity to Cebuanos."

"I believe I am faced with the same situation at GSIS. One of the biggest problems of the System is its huge non-performing assets (NPAs). Maybe the selection committee thought I could do something to address this problem."

Total NPAs of GSIS had been placed at a whopping P50 billion, mostly from undervalued stocks pummeled by the prolonged economic crisis.

Frustrated priest

The eldest son of one of Cebu's most outstanding public servants, the young Garcia had prepared to become a priest. He spent eight years in the seminary before the priests of the ultra-conservative Pontifical University at the University of Santo Tomas decided that priesthood was not his calling.

"I've wanted to become a priest but the priests at UST did not understand that well because at that time, they considered my ideas to be radical. It was Marcos' time and anybody thinking against the system was seen as a radical," Garcia narrated.

With both parents as lawyers, it was natural for Garcia to pursue a career in law instead. His father is Pablo Garcia, former Cebu governor and ex-congressman, while his mother is Esperanza Tan-Fiel, a retired regional trial court judge who had been active with local cooperatives.

"That's why when people threaten me with lawsuits, I just laughed them off. My parents fed us on these lawsuits and I fed my family on these lawsuits," he said.

However, he does not consider the current situation at the GSIS as a laughing matter.

Running GSIS

"I think there are serious moves to remove me from office. There might be people who do not want me there because I am not willing to compromise the interest of the 1.5 million members of the GSIS. For me, this is non-negotiable," he said.

Garcia may have stepped on the toes of some big businessmen when he decided to uphold the foreclosure of their huge loans due to non-payment.

"But we need to somehow collect on these loans or else the funds for members' benefits might be diminished," he said.

He also streamlined the company's reinsurance unit, allowing savings on brokers' commissions and retaining more income for GSIS.

Another controversial decision was the setting up of district offices, instead of branch offices, to bring GSIS services closer to its members at less cost. However, this meant the transfer of people from the head office to the district office.

FIFTY pounds earlier.

"I am very unpopular with them because I am creating these district offices, but these are for the service of the members and I am just maximizing our resources. But they (employees) don't want that because they don't want some of their people to be inconvenienced," Garcia said.

"More often than not, the interest of the employees will clash with the interest of the members. If we succumb to the pressures of the union because you don't want to be unpopular with them, then the members will be at the losing end," he stressed.

He said he had expected some resistance to the reforms he had been pushing at GSIS since this was how most organizations react to changes. That's why, Garcia also avoided rocking the boat further by keeping the organization intact.

He brought in very few people to GSIS and he works with the GSIS' holdover Board of Trustees, appointed by the previous administration.

Implementing reforms

Garcia had also instituted reforms at the GSIS that are geared toward going back to the System's original mandate of serving its members.

"The key to our success, as we have learned, is to invest on the members—the beneficial owners of the fund . . . We discovered that our most profitable investment in the portfolio was our investment in salary loans and other loans to members," Garcia said.

Thus, Garcia has started expanding members' benefits and improving services. Among these programs are the more than two-fold increase in the loanable amount of members under the salary loan scheme, significant reduction in the waiting time for the release of these loans to just eight hours from one to three weeks previously, and the 90-percent increase in the annual dividends of retired members.

He noted that the shift in investment strategy allowed GSIS to post an 11.3-percent increase in investment income to P13.47 billion last year despite the weakness in the equities market and declining interest rates.

He also said that the reserves and surplus of GSIS continued to grow at a healthy 18-percent average annual growth in the last five years. Total reserves and surplus of GSIS stood at P191.14 billion as of end-2001.

His pants may be falling off due to the weight loss, but Garcia's resolve to reform the GSIS will remain steady. The gargantuan task of cleaning the GSIS of its bad assets still lies before him and this is where he would like to focus his efforts on this year.

Hurdling the NPA problem

"This year, my task is to rationalize our NPAs because for several years these types of assets were never addressed. So what we're doing and hopefully launch by May or second half of the year is to establish an index fund to rationalize our huge stock portfolio," he said.

He said GSIS could not just pull out its investment in the stock market because it has grown too big that such move would definitely create shock waves in the equities market.

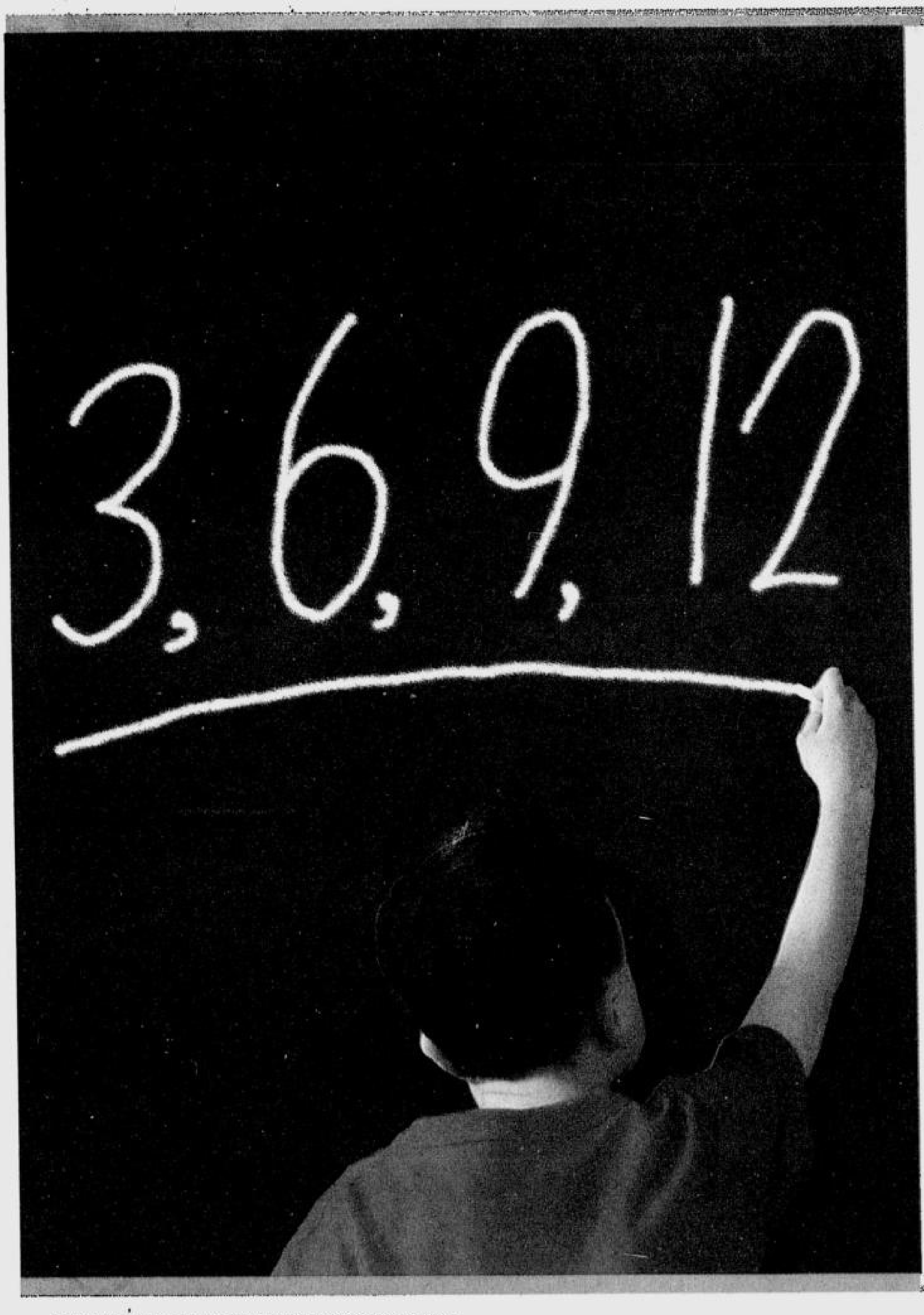
The index fund is made up of a basket of securities that is aligned with the Philippine composite index, or Phisix. The GSIS Index Fund is seen to hold an initial P7-10 billion in funds.

"We believe that this is very attractive to foreign investors because foreign fund managers had to have some kind of investment in the emerging markets like the Philippines and they don't have time to monitor individual stocks but they have time to monitor the performance of a stock index, like the Phisix," he said.

GSIS is also currently finalizing talks with foreign financial advisors Lehman and Cerberus for a partnership in an asset management company where GSIS could put in its NPAs as its equity share in the partnership.

Aside from these, GSIS also aims to launch this year its interactive website that will allow members to inquire about their accounts online. GSIS is also pushing for the creation of a smart membership card that could handle cash advance transactions for members.

"These are big plans and we cannot be deterred in our vision. At the end of the day, we at GSIS must realize that we all have a single purpose, and that is to serve the members in the best way that we can," Garcia said.



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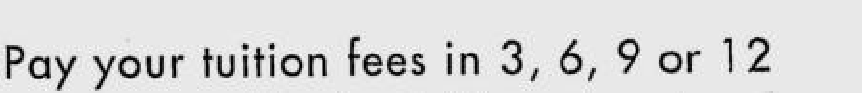

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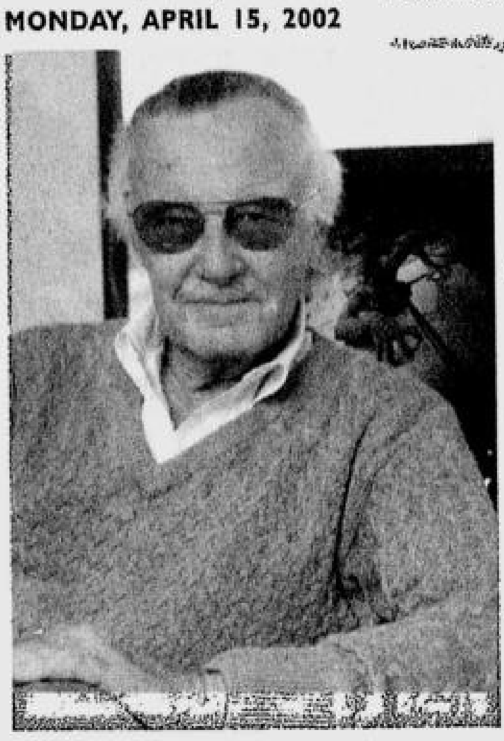
'The Man' behind Spider-Man



Stan Lee, the iconic creator behind Spider-Man, the X-Men and other Marvel superheroes, shares a few word balloons about his career and the upcoming big-budget Spidey movie

By Ruel S. De Vera

WHILE it can be argued that a radioactive spider, gamma rays and genetic mutation created Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk and the X-Men, respectively, the case can also be made

'THE MAN'/ p.D2

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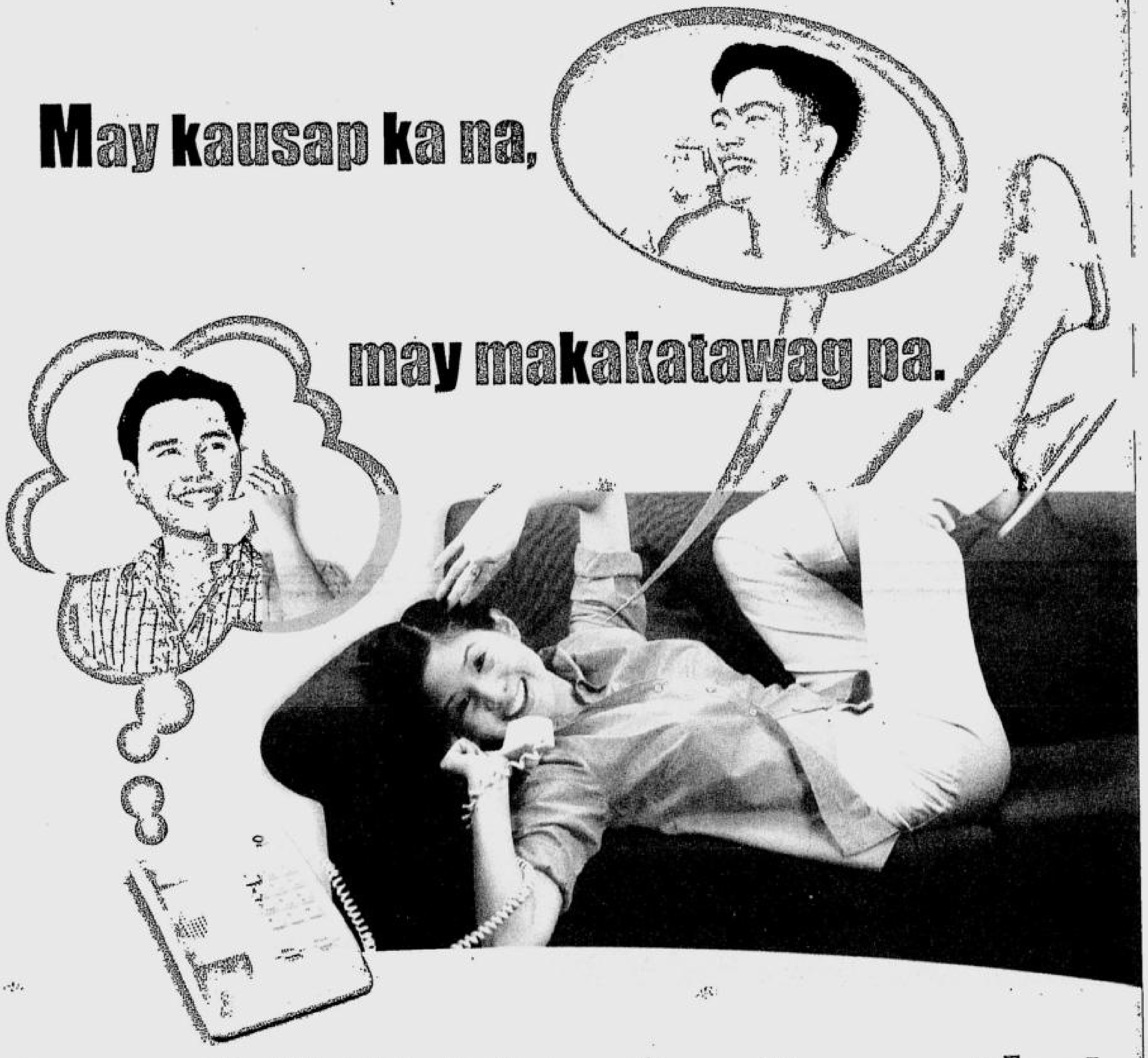

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‘The Man’ behind Spider-Man

TOBEY Maguire as Peter Parker

From page D1

that they were all created by the cosmic imagination of Stan Lee. Arguably no single person has had a greater impact on the comic book as an art form than Lee. With his penchant for realistic story lines and engaging characters, the prolific Lee molded Marvel Comics—known as the House of Ideas—into the comic book superpower as he had a hand in crafting practically the entire Marvel Universe. Among the other characters he helped summon from the ether: The Fantastic Four, Iron Man, The Mighty Thor, the Silver Surfer and Doctor Doom, classic characters all.

Lee (born Stanley Lieber) joined Timely Comics in 1939, where he worked with another comic legend, Jack "King" Kirby. Lee rose to top writer at the young age of 20. Timely, now known as Marvel, fought a losing battle against DC’s Silver Age resurrection of Superman and company. In a stroke of genius, Lee thought up of fresh, new characters dealing with everyday problems like the rest of us, which would turn out to be a Lee staple. The 1961 arrival of "Fantastic Four" #1 ushered in Marvel’s rise to industry dominance. The upsurge saw its defining moment in 1963, when Lee and artist Steve Ditko introduced the teenaged Peter Parker in "Amazing Fantasy" #15. Spider-Man was born and the rest is web-slinging history.

SPIDER-MAN versus the Green Goblin

During his tenure at Marvel’s helm, Lee played a part in the creative vocabulary of countless readers and made his signature sign-off ("Excelsior!") part of the pop culture lexicon. Today, although Lee is no longer involved with Marvel’s day-to-day operations, every Marvel comic still bears the phrase "Stan Lee presents."

Known to comic fans as "Stan the Man," the 79-year-old Lee hasn’t rested on his laurels, either. He helped bring the various Marvel characters to TV, put up a short-lived Internet company Stan Lee Media, and has just put up a dynamic new company called POW! In a stunning turnaround, he even joined forces with rival DC Comics on a daring and popular "Just Imagine Stan Lee Creating" series that had Lee reinventing classic DC properties like Wonder Woman.

Marvel has also shown resilience, bouncing back from bankruptcy to attain its current cutting-edge status. And after years of seeing DC properties like Batman occupy the big screen, the success of the "Blade" and "X-Men" movies indicates a shift in power. Now, with the pending box-office invasion by director Sam Raimi’s "Spider-Man," starring Tobey Maguire ("The Cider House Rules") and Kirsten Dunst ("Bring It On"), Stan Lee and Marvel are hotter than ever. "Spider-Man" opens in Metro Manila theaters on May 3. The INQUIRER and The Man engaged in an energetic e-mail exchange regarding the world of Peter Parker and company:

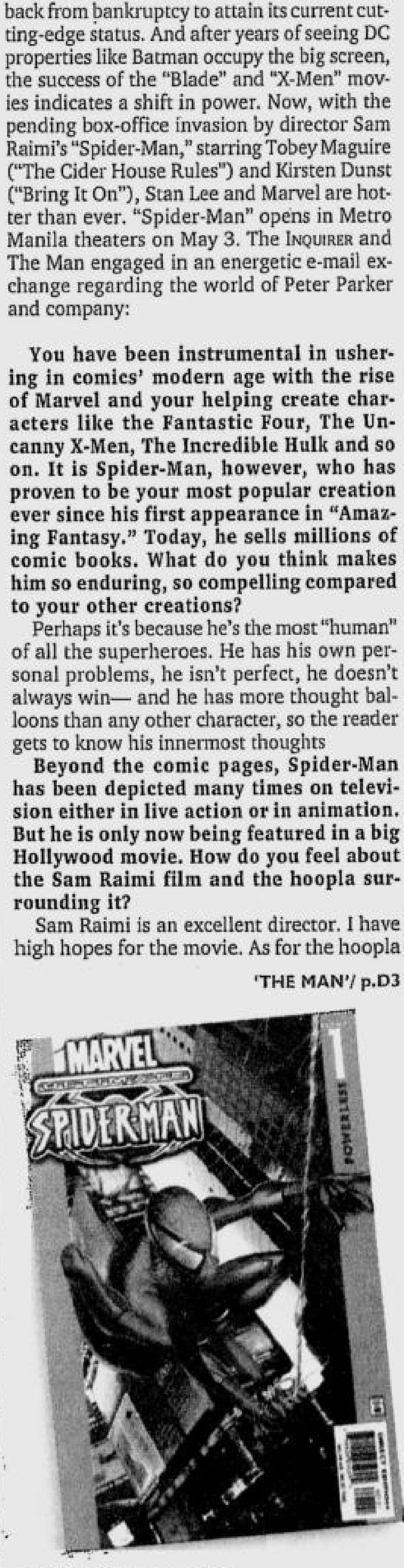
You have been instrumental in ushering in comics’ modern age with the rise of Marvel and your helping create characters like the Fantastic Four, The Uncanny X-Men, The Incredible Hulk and so on. It is Spider-Man, however, who has proven to be your most popular creation ever since his first appearance in "Amazing Fantasy." Today, he sells millions of comic books. What do you think makes him so enduring, so compelling compared to your other creations?

Perhaps it’s because he’s the most "human" of all the superheroes. He has his own personal problems, he isn’t perfect, he doesn’t always win— and he has more thought balloons than any other character, so the reader gets to know his innermost thoughts

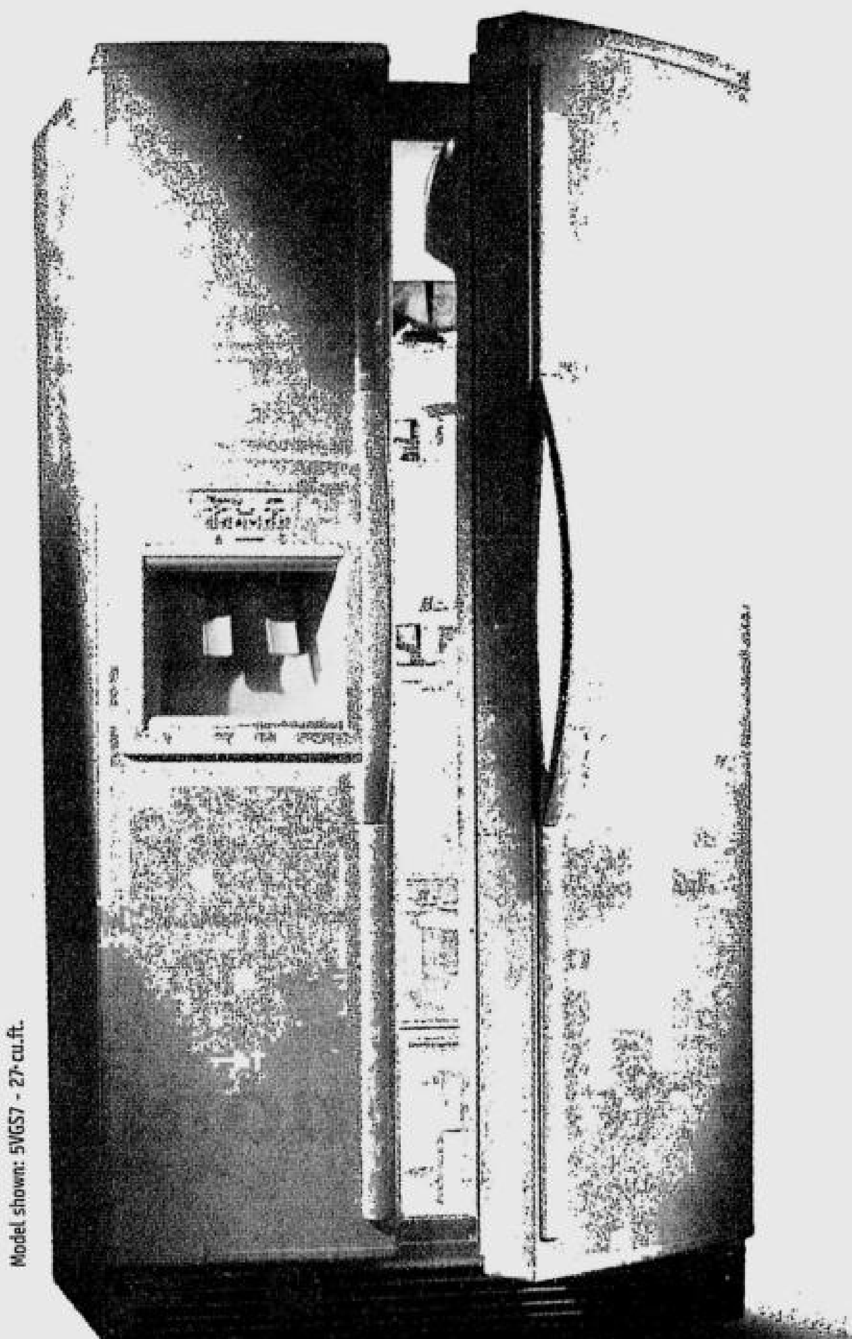
Beyond the comic pages, Spider-Man has been depicted many times on television either in live action or in animation. But he is only now being featured in a big Hollywood movie. How do you feel about the Sam Raimi film and the hoopla surrounding it?

Sam Raimi is an excellent director. I have high hopes for the movie. As for the hoopla

'THE MAN'/ p.D3



THE COMICS sensation



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MAGUIRE in Rolling Stones. "Spider-Man" is expected to catapult the actor, known for his sensitive portrayals, to the A-list of bankables.

'The Man' behind Spider-Man

From page D2

surrounding it, I find that very exciting and flattering. If people didn't care as much about Spidey, there wouldn't be so much hoopla.

After years of virtually no big screen presence, "Blade" and "X-Men" were hits, while projects ranging from "Black Panther" to Ang Lee's upcoming "The Incredible Hulk" are now in the celluloid pipeline. Do you think it's Marvel's time to be a movie powerhouse?

I think it is absolutely Marvel's time to be a movie powerhouse. Marvel is like a locomotive racing downhill—nothing can stop it now!

How does it feel to be one of the most influential creators in comicdom and to have worked with all those great talents such as the late Jack Kirby?

It feels great! I've been very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful artists.

Speaking on a delicate issue regarding collaborators, it's been reported that you had a falling out with Spider-Man co-creator Steve Ditko for many years. How is your relationship today?

As far as I'm concerned, my relationship with Steve is fine. I think he's a terrific guy and a brilliant artist and storyteller.'

You've created a wide variety of characters, many of them still world-famous today. What common element do you

'THE MAN'/ p.D5

"**THE MOST** human of superheroes"

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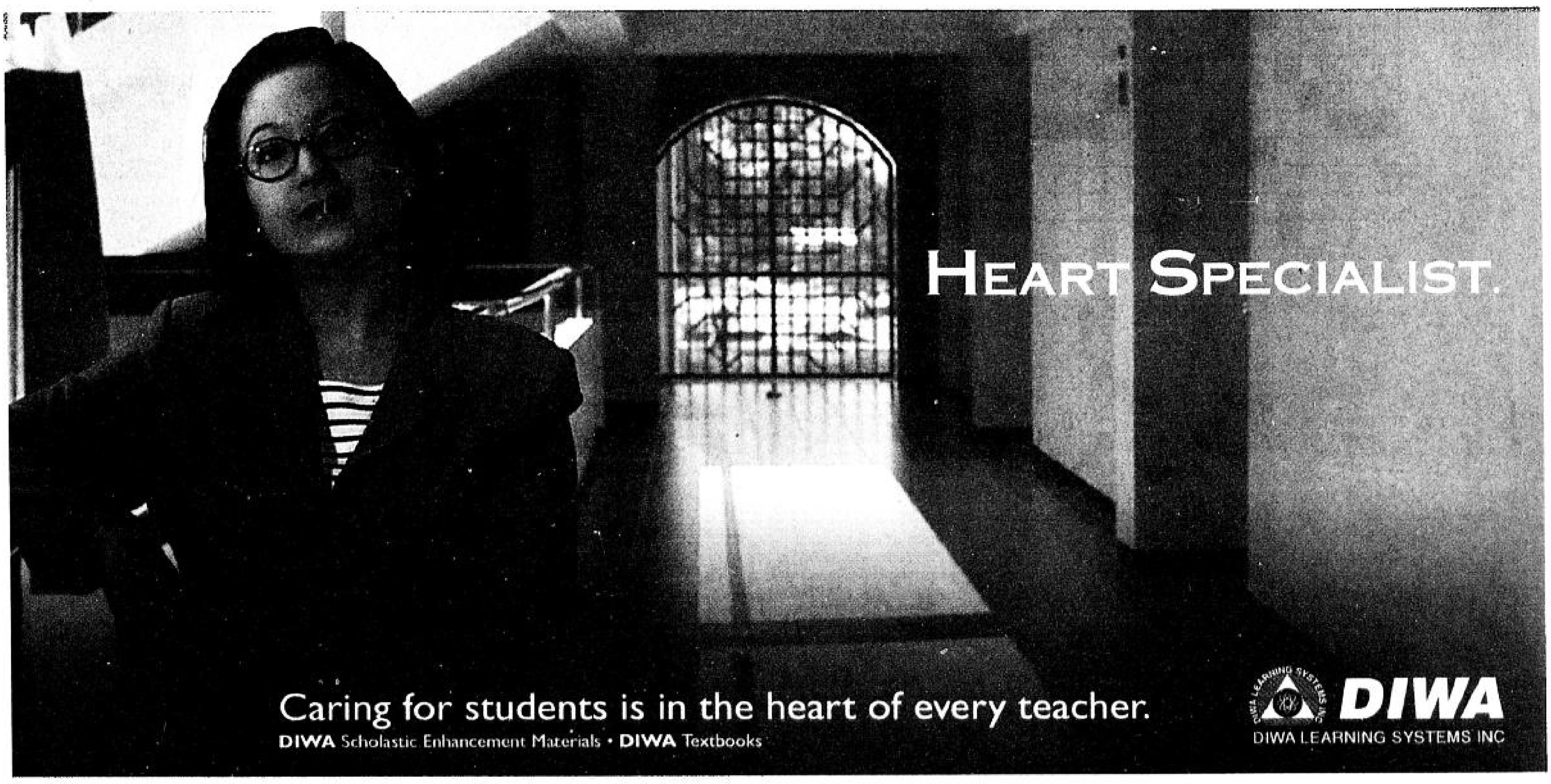
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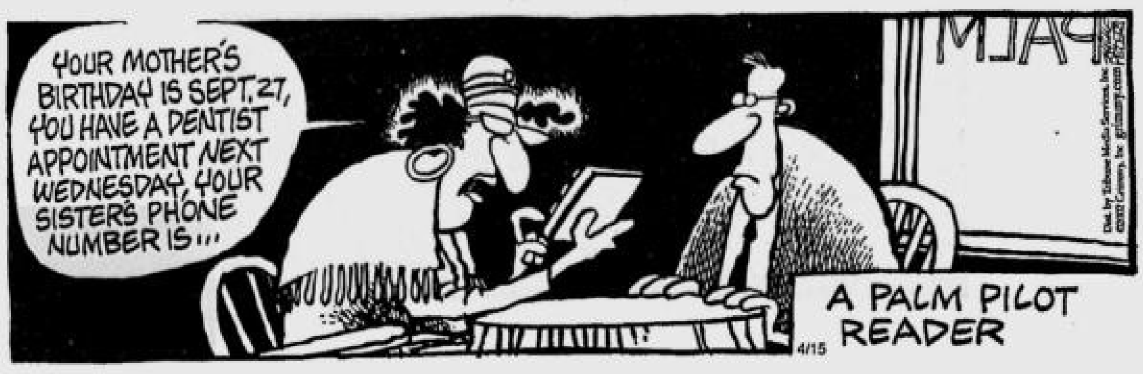
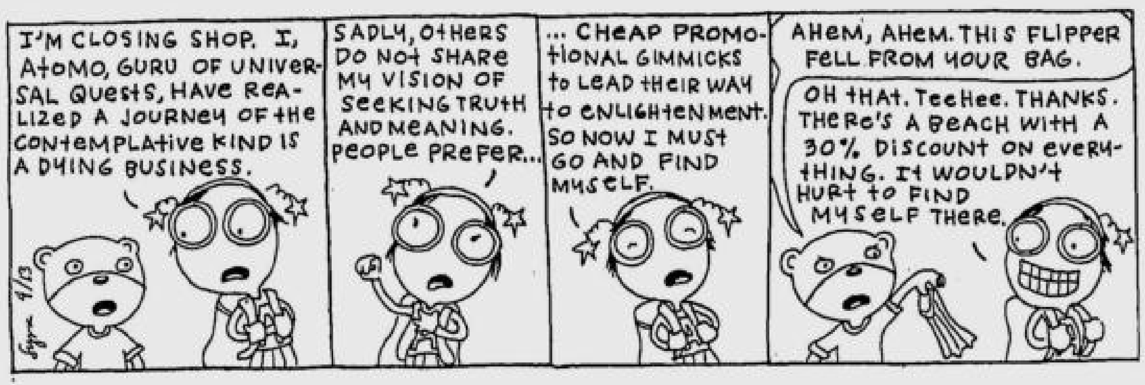
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY IS SEPT. 27, YOU HAVE A DENTIST APPOINTMENT NEXT WEDNESDAY, YOUR SISTER'S PHONE NUMBER IS...
PALM
A PALM PILOT READER
4/15

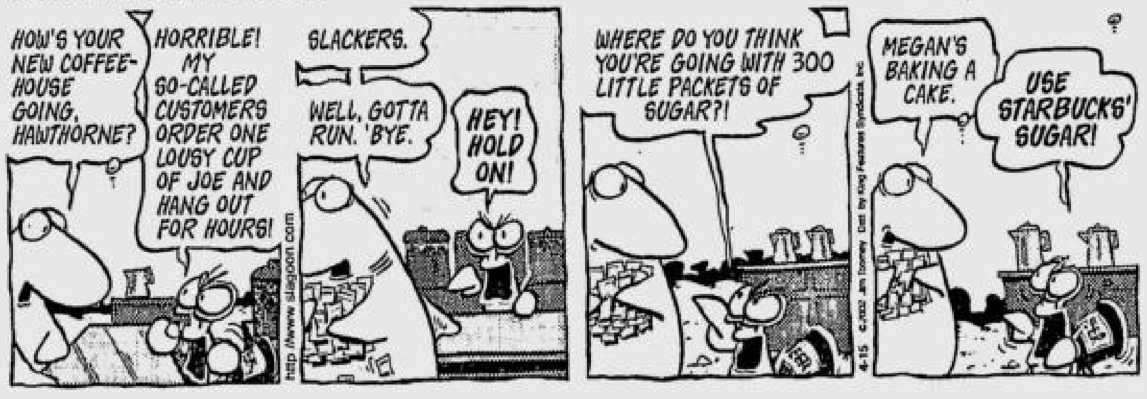
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M CLOSING SHOP. I, ATOMO, GURU OF UNIVERSAL QUESTS, HAVE REALIZED A JOURNEY OF THE CONTEMPLATIVE KIND IS A DYING BUSINESS.
SADLY, OTHERS DO NOT SHARE MY VISION OF SEEKING TRUTH AND MEANING. PEOPLE PREFER...
... CHEAP PROMOTIONAL GIMMICKS TO LEAD THEIR WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT. SO NOW I MUST GO AND FIND MYSELF.
AHEM, AHEM. THIS FLIPPER FELL FROM YOUR BAG.
OH THAT. TEEHEE. THANKS. THERE'S A BEACH WITH A 30% DISCOUNT ON EVERYTHING. IT WOULDN'T HURT TO FIND MYSELF THERE.

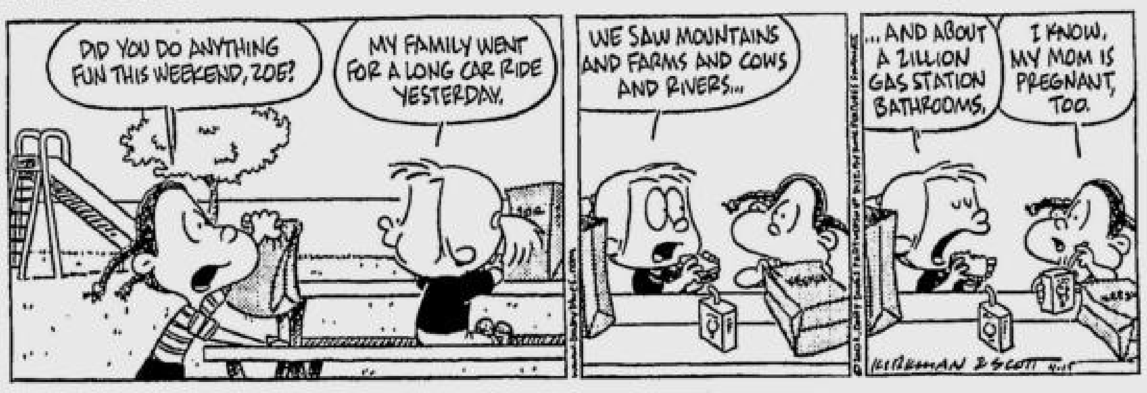
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW'S YOUR NEW COFFEE-HOUSE GOING, HAWTHORNE?
HORRIBLE! MY SO-CALLED CUSTOMERS ORDER ONE LOUSY CUP OF JOE AND HANG OUT FOR HOURS!
SLACKERS.
WELL, GOTTA RUN. 'BYE.
HEY! HOLD ON!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING WITH 300 LITTLE PACKETS OF SUGAR?!
MEGAN'S BAKING A CAKE.
USE STARBUCKS' SUGAR!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DID YOU DO ANYTHING FUN THIS WEEKEND, ZOE?
MY FAMILY WENT FOR A LONG CAR RIDE YESTERDAY.
WE SAW MOUNTAINS AND FARMS AND COWS AND RIVERS...
...AND ABOUT A ZILLION GAS STATION BATHROOMS.
I KNOW. MY MOM IS PREGNANT, TOO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roy Clark, Emma Thompson, Leonardo da Vinci, Emma Watson

Happy Birthday: Excitement, adventure and entertainment are a must this year. You will pick up and travel suddenly. You'll have a great need to interact with others, along with having a strong attraction to art. You're likely to show your feelings through monetary means and must be careful not be taken advantage of. Your numbers are 19, 23, 28, 33, 35, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Strategically position yourself so that you can make the most of every opportunity . You will do what you do best and will reach your highest potential today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have to work hard in order to keep up with everything that is happening in your life. Don't spread yourself too thin. Instead, set your priorities and stick to them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Greater interaction with officials or government agencies will add to your frustration today. Try to get all your papers in order to avoid too many delays.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your involvement in groups with substance will boost your reputation and put you in a key position. Bide your time and let things develop naturally.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There may be lots going on around you today but be an observer for the time being. Someone may try to rock your boat if you leave yourself in too vulnerable a position.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make your mark if you practice what you preach. You will have excellent ideas and although not everyone will agree, if you fight hard enough you will gain ground and accomplish your goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone may try to get you to donate to a cause you don't necessarily believe in. Tell that individual that charity begins at home and invest in yourself. There are all sorts of valid opportunities for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your personal life may be going through some changes today that may appear to be disruptive. If you are patient and let things unfold as they may you will discover that you are actually sitting in a pretty good position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Advancement can be yours. You can make financial gains through your efforts at work. Your ability to go above and beyond your call of duty will bring you additional praise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time to do something that will bring you great joy. Test the waters, try new things and don't be afraid to make some personal changes that you've been thinking about.

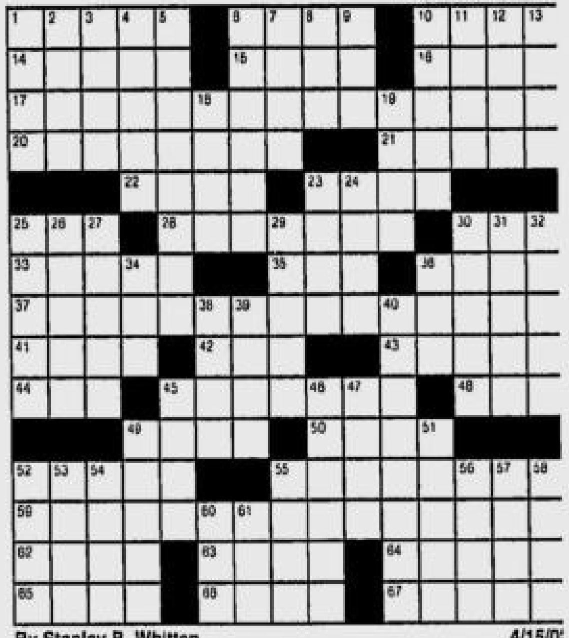
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Difficulties with family members may cause alarm. Be careful not to overreact to the situation. Take time to listen to everyone's side of the story before you decide what to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can expect to hear something from afar today. E-mail, snail mail or packages will be forthcoming. This is a great day to do things with your friends.

Birthday Baby: You will have a need to live well but will never squander in order to do so. You will always try to help others but will not forgive if someone treats you poorly.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

4/15/0

ACROSS
1 Crystal-lined rock
6 Menu listing
10 Arabian port
14 Relieve
15 Title
16 Memorandum
17 Breakfast choice
20 Football two-pointers
21 Emanations
22 Robert or Elizabeth
23 Off-peak period
25 Tooth topper
28 Louis L'Amour subject
30 Confirmed
33 Parcel out
35 Garden tool
36 Gumbo veggie
37 Breakfast choice
41 Pipsqueak
42 Abner's size?
43 Way overweight
44 Consumed
45 Tackles, guards, etc.
48 Mack or Koppel
49 Facility
50 Andes autocrat
52 Warty amphibians
55 Precede in time
59 Breakfast choice
62 Hint
63 __ Hari
64 Border
65 Shoe part
66 Front of the calf
67 Irregularly notched

DOWN
1 Practical jokes
2 First lady of scat
3 Norwegian king
4 Stunned
5 Upper canine
6 Without a doubt
7 Western art colony
8 Big bird Down Under
9 Ryan of "You've Got Mail"
10 Cancel
11 Forbidding
12 Blues singer James
13 Capone's nemesis
18 Kind of pickle
19 Sentry's command
23 "Trinity" author Uris
24 Secondhand
25 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
26 Native Alaskan
27 Evening tool
29 Moby Dick, e.g.
30 Shooting sport
31 Delete
32 Domesticated
34 Tenth mo.
36 Spherical object
38 Yale alumni
39 Trig function
40 Devise
45 Young lady
46 Minimum of ten Orthodox Jews
47 Ways in: abbr.
49 Ford lemon
51 Old World snake
52 Part of M.I.T.
53 Leer
54 Fever with chills
55 Against
56 Flying: pref.
57 Pulls
58 Fencing sword
60 Hesitation sounds
61 Forget it!

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	L	A	■	S	P	A	R	T	A	■	R	A	T
A	D	A	M	■	P	I	L	E	O	N	■	O	N	E
N	O	N	E	■	L	O	D	G	E	D	■	B	A	N
G	R	A	N	T	I	N	A	I	D	■	M	I	L	D
S	N	I	D	E	N	E	S	S	■	R	A	N	G	E
■	■	■	S	A	T	E	■	■	B	U	R	G	E	R
G	E	R	■	M	E	R	C	H	A	N	D	I	S	E
E	X	E	S	■	R	E	B	E	L	■	I	B	I	S
I	O	D	I	Z	E	D	S	A	L	T	■	B	A	T
S	N	A	R	E	D	■	■	D	O	O	R	■	■	■
H	E	L	E	N	■	L	I	C	O	R	I	C	E	S
A	R	E	S	■	R	E	N	O	N	E	V	A	D	A
B	A	R	■	S	O	M	A	L	I	■	A	M	E	N
O	T	T	■	P	O	U	N	D	S	■	L	E	N	T
Y	E	S	■	A	T	R	E	S	T	■	S	O	S	O

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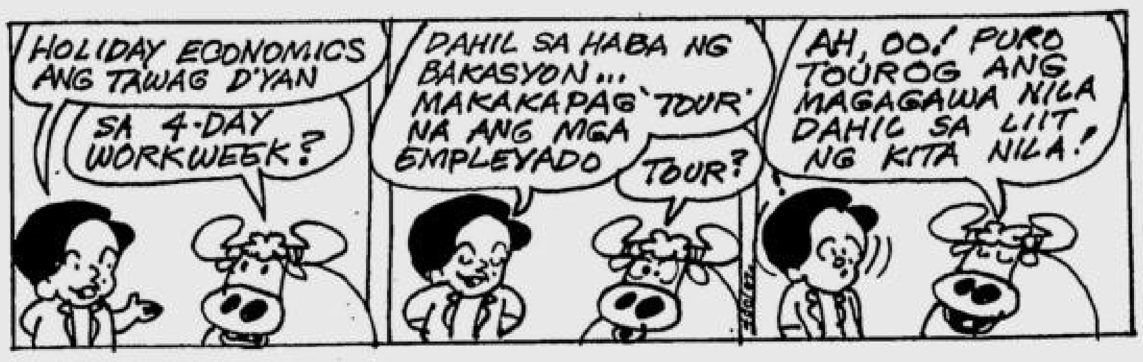
4/15/0

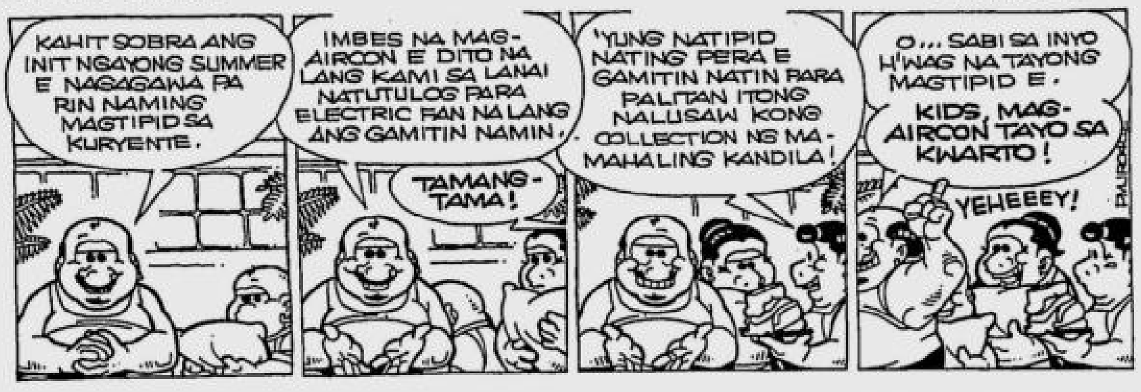
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HOLIDAY ECONOMICS ANG TAWAG D'YAN
SA 4-DAY WORKWEEK?
DAHIL SA HABA NG BAKASYON... MAKAKAPAG 'TOUR' NA ANG MGA EMPLEYADO
TOUR?
AH, OO! PURO TOUROG ANG MAGAGAWA NILA DAHIL SA LIIT NG KITA NILA!

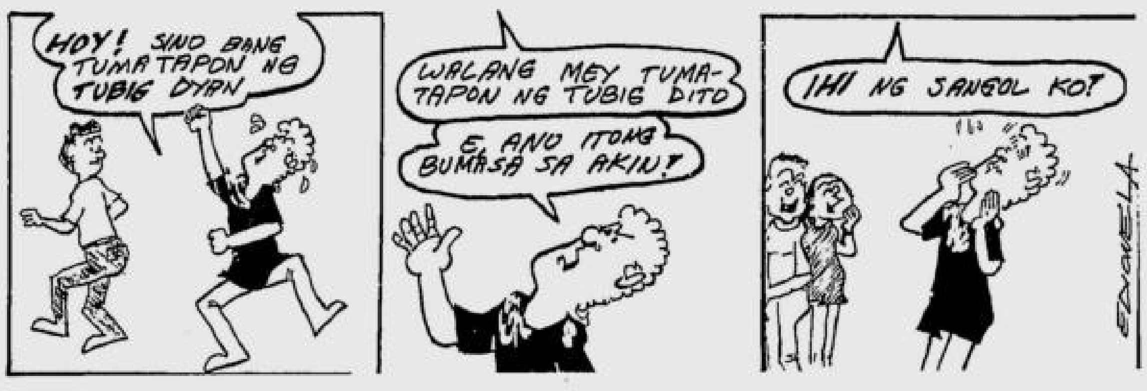
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAHIT SOBRA ANG INIT NGAYONG SUMMER E NAGAGAWA PA RIN NAMING MAGTIPID SA KURYENTE.
IMBES NA MAG-AIRCON E DITO NA LANG KAMI SA LANAI NATUTULOG PARA ELECTRIC FAN NA LANG ANG GAMITIN NAMIN.
TAMANG-TAMA!
'YUNG NATIPID NATING PERA E GAMITIN NATIN PARA PALITAN ITONG NALUSAW KONG COLLECTION NG MAMAHALING KANDILA!
O... SABI SA INYO H'WAG NA TAYONG MAGTIPID E.
KIDS, MAG-AIRCON TAYO SA KWARTO!
YEHEEEY!

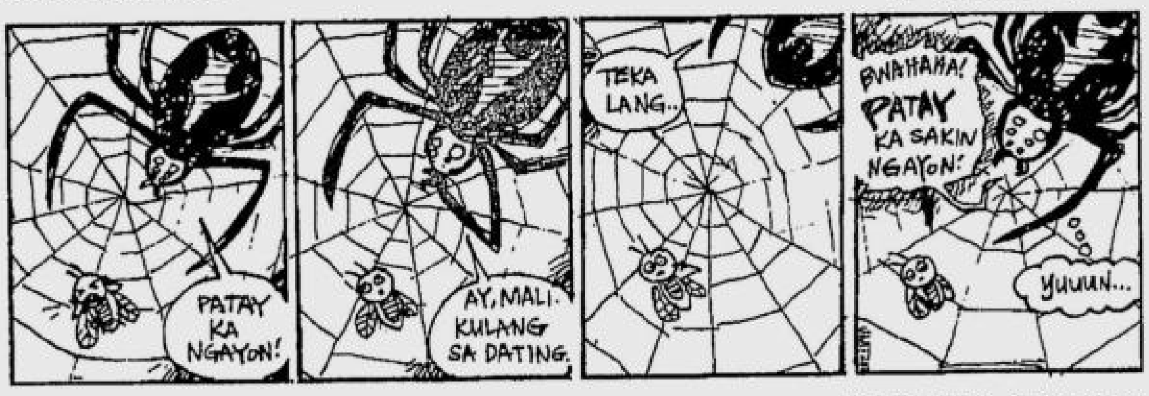
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HOY! SINO BANG TUMATAPON NG TUBIG DYAN
WALANG MEY TUMATAPON NG TUBIG DITO
E, ANO ITONG BUMASA SA AKIN?
IHI NG SANGOL KO?
EDIONELA

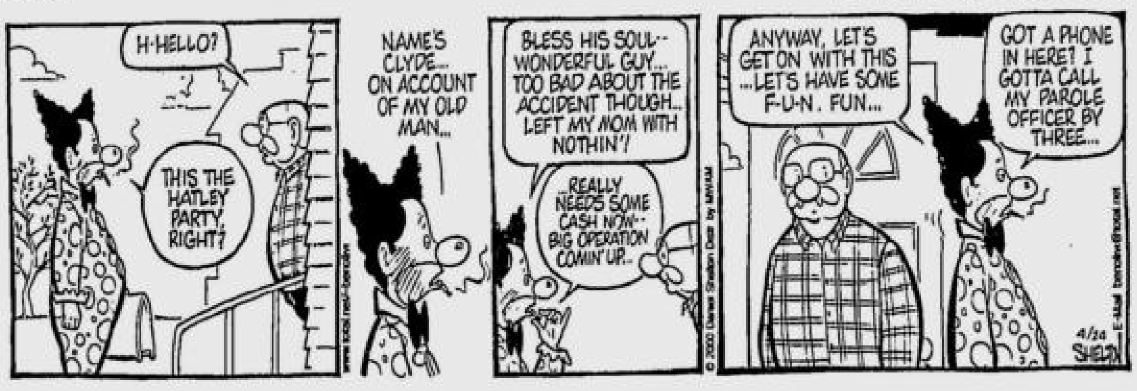
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PATAY KA NGAYON!
AY, MALI. KULANG SA DATING.
TEKA LANG...
BWAHAHA! PATAY KA SAKIN NGAYON!
YUUUN...

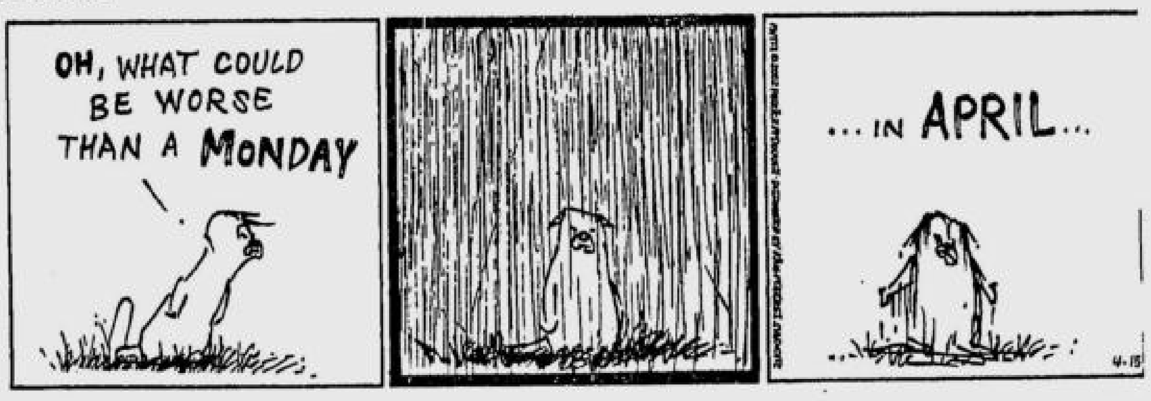
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


H-HELLO?
THIS THE HATLEY PARTY, RIGHT?
NAME'S CLYDE... ON ACCOUNT OF MY OLD MAN...
BLESS HIS SOUL-- WONDERFUL GUY... TOO BAD ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THOUGH... LEFT MY MOM WITH NOTHIN'!
...REALLY NEEDS SOME CASH NOW-- BIG OPERATION COMIN' UP...
ANYWAY, LET'S GET ON WITH THIS ...LET'S HAVE SOME F-U-N. FUN...
GOT A PHONE IN HERE? I GOTTA CALL MY PAROLE OFFICER BY THREE...
4/24
SHELTON

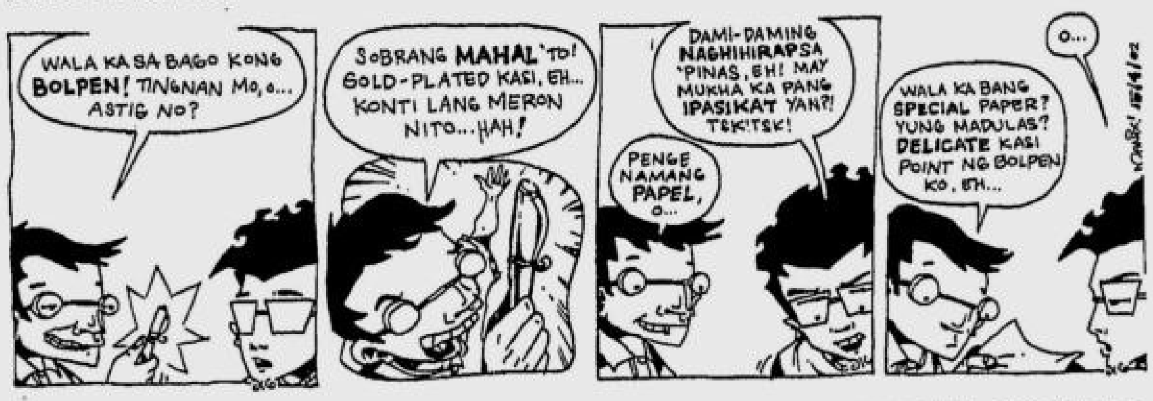
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN A MONDAY
... IN APRIL...
4-15

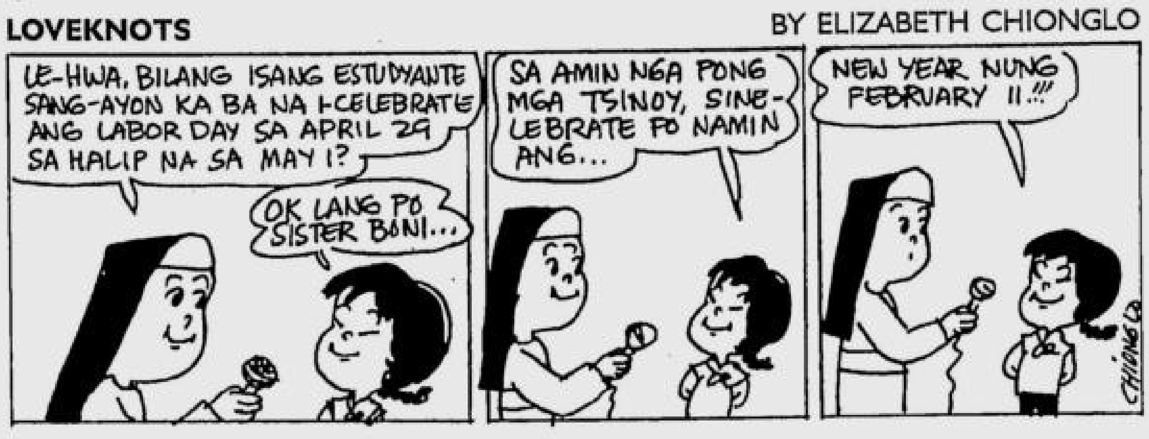
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WALA KA SA BAGO KONG BOLPEN! TINGNAN MO, O... ASTIG NO?
SOBRANG MAHAL 'TO! GOLD-PLATED KASI, EH... KONTI LANG MERON NITO... HAH!
PENGE NAMANG PAPEL, O...
DAMI-DAMING NAGHIHIRAPSA 'PINAS, EH! MAY MUKHA KA PANG IPASIKAT YAN?! TSK!TSK!
WALA KA BANG SPECIAL PAPER? YUNG MADULAS? DELICATE KASI POINT NG BOLPEN KO, EH...
O...

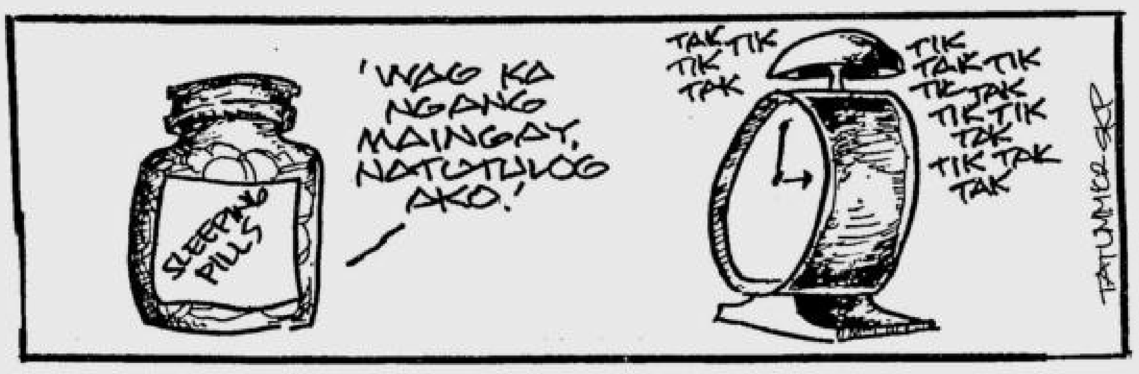
LOVEKNOTS

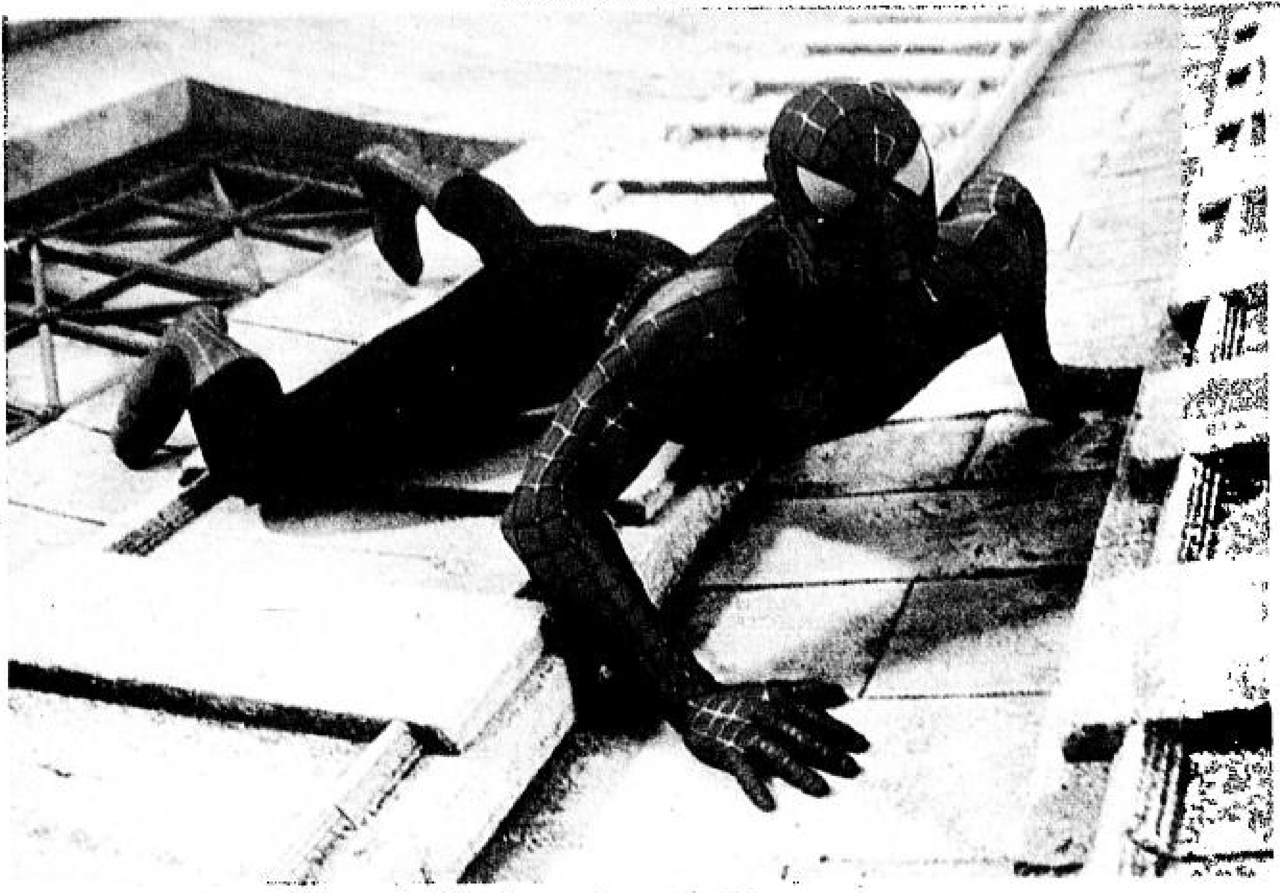
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LE-HWA, BILANG ISANG ESTUDYANTE SANG-AYON KA BA NA I-CELEBRATE ANG LABOR DAY SA APRIL 29 SA HALIP NA SA MAY 1?
OK LANG PO SISTER BONI...
SA AMIN NGA PONG MGA TSINOY, SINE-LEBRATE PO NAMIN ANG...
NEW YEAR NUNG FEBRUARY 11.!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SLEEPING PILLS
'WAG KA NGANG MAINGAY, NATUTULOG AKO.'
TAK TIK TIK TAK
TIK TAK TIK TIK TAK TIK TIK TAK TIK TAK TAK
TATUM



"SPIDER-MAN" is expected to make Marvel a movie powerhouse.

'The Man' behind Spider-Man

From page D3

grant them, what makes them all Stan Lee creations?

I'd like to think it's because I try to combine realism with the fantasy—and I try to get them all to talk like real people. I used to spend a great deal of time trying to give each character his or her own speech mannerisms.

You always ended your bullpen bulletins with "Excelsior" and loved using big but fun words in your messages. How did this come about and why are you Stan "The Man"?

I don't know. I guess I just like playing with words. I like the sound of words, especially the combining of different words. I'm not sure how it started, but years ago newspapers and magazines started referring to me as "Stan the Man" and the name just sort of stuck.

When Marvel Comics rose to prominence, it was due to the reality that you brought to the world of fictional characters. Was this intentional on your part?

Absolutely. I always tried to play up that feeling of reality.

Marvel Comics has been through quite a wild ride. After declaring chapter 11 and bought by ToyBiz, it is now back to being a "House of Ideas" with its cutting-edge ideas. What do feel about Marvel's new, daring direction under current editor in chief Joe Quesada?

Joe Quesada is doing a fantastic job. He's brought new ideas and great new talent to Marvel. We're lucky to have him.

You were identified with Marvel for so long, yet you recently shocked the comics world by writing the "Just Imagine" series for Marvel's blood rival DC Comics. Why did you do it and how did that go?

I did the "Just Imagine" series for DC because it was such an interesting challenge that I couldn't say no. But I'm still connected with Marvel. I never left Marvel. That series was just something I did for fun. It seems to be selling very well.

You were involved with the now-defunct Stan Lee Media and are now involved with POW! What are your goals with this new entertainment tie-up?

With POW! Entertainment I'm concentrating exclusively on movies, television and animation—nothing to do with the Internet. I'm working with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and enjoying it immensely.

You're 79 and it seems you're not slowing down at all. What do you like doing in your spare time to relax?

I don't have any spare time! My work is really my relaxation. I love what I do.

Do you have any intentions of retiring someday, or is there still a specific goal you wish to achieve?

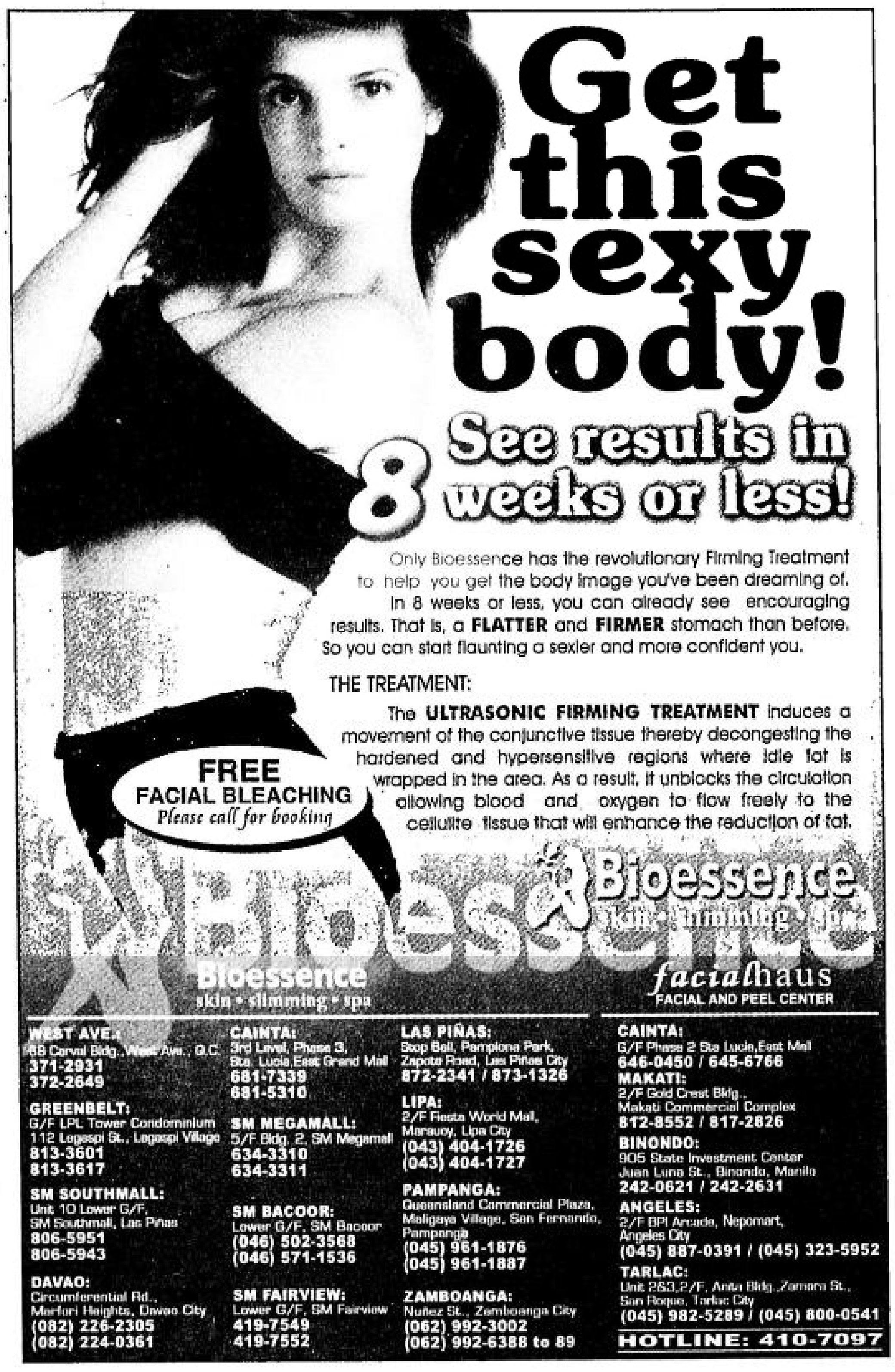
No, I have no specific goal except to create a lot of new movies and TV series. And I don't expect to retire until the day I'm unable to work any more, which I hope won't be for a very long time.

Ultimately, you will be identified with Spider-Man more than any other character. What character trait do you share with Peter Parker?

We both have a beautiful wife! (Not the same one, of course!)

Last question, Mr. Lee. Should we all swing over to the theater and catch "Spider-Man"?

You'll be missing a helluva great time if you don't!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681-5310

SM MEGAMALL:
5/F Bldg. 2, SM Megamall
634-3310
634-3311

SM BACOOR:
Lower G/F, SM Bacoor
(046) 502-3568
(046) 571-1536

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419-7552

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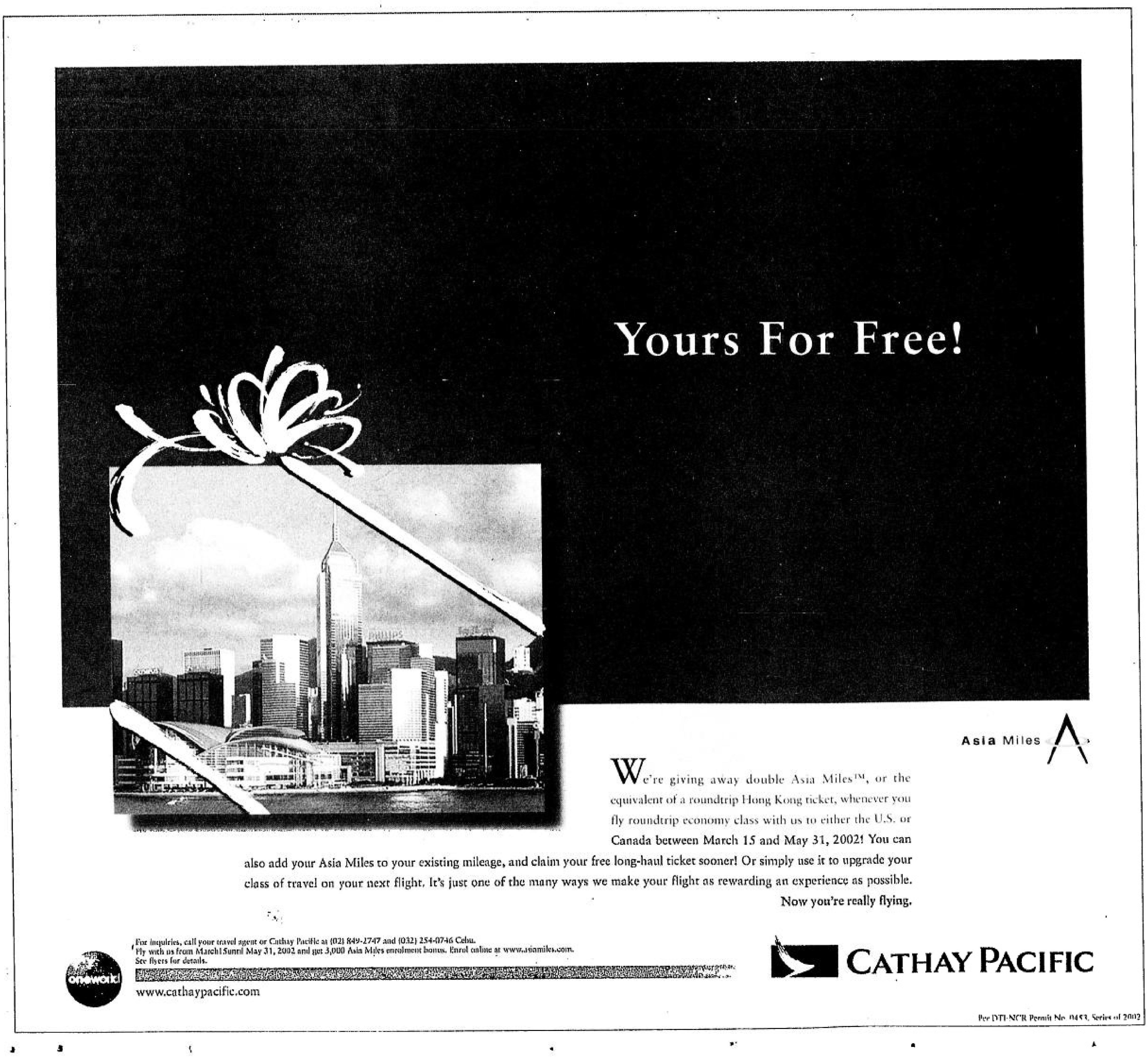
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April 5, 2002

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 107-2002

TO: All District/Port Collectors
And Others Concerned

Attached is the letter dated April 1, 2002 of Mr. Lamberto R. Barbin, Officer-in-Charge, Records Office, Office of the President endorsing Executive Order No. 83 dated March 15, 2002 entitled: **"MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON VARIOUS PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, AS AMENDED)."**

For your information and guidance.

ATTY. ANTONIO M. BERNARDO
Commissioner

HDG. NO.	H.S. CODE	DESCRIPTION	RATE OF DUTY (%)
04.05		**Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads.**	
	0405.10 00	- X X X	
	0405.20 00	- X X X	
	0405.90 00	- Other	1
07.13		**Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, whether or not skinned or split.**	
	0713.10 00	- X X X	
	0713.20 00	- X X X	
		- Beans (*Vigna spp., Phaseolus spp.*):	
	0713.31 00	- - X X X	
	0713.32 00	- - X X X	
	0713.33 00	- - Kidney beans, including white pea beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)	1
	0713.39 00 to 0713.90 00	- - X X X	
11.05		**Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets of potatoes.**	
	1105.10 00	- Flour, meal and powder	1
	1105.20 00	- X X X	
11.07		**Malt, whether or not roasted.**	
	1107.10 00	- Not roasted	1
	1107.20 00	- Roasted	1
12.10		**Hop cones, fresh or dried, whether or not ground, powdered or in the form of pellets; lupulin.**	
	1210.10 00	- Hop cones, neither ground nor powdered nor in the form of pellets	1
	1210.20 00	- Hop cones, ground, powdered or in the form of pellets; lupulin	1
13.02		**Vegetable saps and extracts; pectic substances, pectinates and pectates; agar-agar and other mucilages and thickeners, whether or not modified, derived from vegetable products.**	
		- Vegetable saps and extracts:	
	1302.11 00	- - X X X	
	1302.12 00	- - X X X	
	1302.13 00	- - Of hops	1
	1302.14 00 to 1302.39 90	- - X X X	
15.11		**Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.**	
	1511.10 00	- Crude oil	2001 - 15 2002 - 15 2003 - 15 2004 - 5
	1511.90 00	- Other	2001 - 15 2002 - 15 2003 - 15 2004 - 5
19.01		**Malt extract; food preparations of flour, meal, starch or malt extract, not containing cocoa or containing less than 40% by weight of cocoa calculated on a totally defatted basis, not elsewhere specified or included; food preparations of goods of headings Nos. 04.01 to 04.04, not containing cocoa or containing less than 5% by weight of cocoa calculated on a totally defatted basis, not elsewhere specified or included.**	
	1901.10 00	- X X X	
	1901.20 00	- X X X	
	1901.90	- Other:	
	1901.90 10	- - - X X X	
	1901.90 20	- - - Malt extract	1
	1901.90 30	- - - X X X	
	1901.90 40	- - - X X X	
	1901.90 90	- - - X X X	
20.02		**Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.**	
	2002.10 00	- X X X	
	2002.90	- Other:	
	2002.90 10	- - - X X X	
	2002.90 20	- - - Tomato powder	3
	2002.90 90	- - - X X X	
21.06		**Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included.**	
	2106.10 00	- X X X	
	2106.90	- Other:	
	2106.90 10	- - - Flavouring materials, n.e.s., of the kind used in the food and drink industries; other food preparations to be used as raw materials in preparing composite concentrates for making beverages	1
	2106.90 20	- - - Cheese flavoring powder	1
	2106.90 30 to 2106.90 60	- - - X X X	
	2106.90 70	- - - Fortificant premixes (vitamins and minerals)	1
	2106.90 80	- - - Yeast extract powder	3
	2106.90 90	- - - X X X	
23.09		**Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding.**	
	2309.10 00	- X X X	
	2309.90	- Other:	
	2309.90 10	- - - X X X	
	2309.90 20	- - - X X X	
	2309.90 30	- - - Primate diet	3
	2309.90 90	- - - X X X	
25.04		**Natural graphite.**	
	2504.10 00	- In powder or in flakes	1
	2504.90 00	- X X X	
25.19		**Natural magnesium carbonate (magnesite); fused magnesia; dead-burned (sintered) magnesia, whether or not containing small quantities of other oxides added before sintering; other magnesium oxide, whether or not pure.**	
	2519.10 00	- X X X	
	2519.90	- Other:	
	2519.90 10	- - - Fused magnesia	1
	2519.90 20	- - - Dead-burned (sintered) magnesia	1
	2519.90 90	- - - Other	3
26.06	2606.00 00	**Aluminium ores and concentrates.**	1
28.18		**Artificial corundum, whether or not chemically defined; aluminium oxide; aluminium hydroxide.**	
	2818.10 00	- X X X	
	2818.20 00	- Aluminium oxide, other than artificial corundum	1
	2818.30 00	- X X X	
28.35		**Phosphinates (hypophosphites), phosphonates (phosphites), phosphates and polyphosphates.**	
	2835.10 00	- X X X	
		- Phosphates:	
	2835.22 00	- - X X X	
	2835.23 00	- - X X X	
	2835.24 00	- - Of potassium	1
	2835.25 00 to 2835.39 90	- - X X X	
28.39		**Silicates; commercial alkali metal silicates.**	
		- X X X	
	2839.11 00	- - X X X	
	2839.19 00	- - X X X	
	2839.20 00	- Of potassium	1
	2839.90 00	- X X X	
29.02		**Cyclic hydrocarbons.**	
		- X X X	
	2902.11 00 to 2902.70 00	- - X X X	
	2902.90	- Other:	
	2902.90 10	- - - Alkylbenzene	5
	2902.90 90	- - - X X X	
32.15		**Printing ink, writing or drawing ink and other inks, whether or not concentrated or solid.**	
		- Printing ink:	
	3215.11	- - Black:	
	3215.11 10	- - - UV curable ink	3
	3215.11 20	- - - Ink-filled cartridge for computer printers	FREE
	3215.11 90	- - - X X X	
	3215.19	- - Other:	
	3215.19 10	- - - Ink-filled cartridge for computer printers	FREE
	3215.19 90	- - - Other	3
	3215.90 00	- X X X	
34.02		**Organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations, whether or not containing soap, other than those of heading No. 34.01.**	
		- Organic surface-active agents, whether or not put up for retail sale:	
	3402.11	- - X X X	
	3402.11 10	- - - X X X	
	3402.11 20	- - - Sulphonated alkylbenzene	5
	3402.11 90 to 3402.90 00	- - - X X X	
38.16	3816.00	**Refractory cements, mortars, concretes and similar compositions, other than products of heading No. 38.01.**	
	3816.00 10	- - - Refractory cements	1
	3816.00 90	- - - Other	3
38.24		**Prepared binders for foundry moulds or cores; chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries (including those consisting of mixtures of natural products), not elsewhere specified or included; residual products of the chemical or allied industries, not elsewhere specified or included.**	
	3824.10 00	- X X X	
	3824.20 00	- X X X	
	3824.30 00	- X X X	
	3824.40 00	- Prepared additives for cements, mortars or concretes	1
	3824.50 00 to 3824.90 00	- X X X	
39.12		**Cellulose and its chemical derivatives, not elsewhere specified or included, in primary forms.**	
		- X X X	
	3912.11 00	- - X X X	
	3912.12 00	- - X X X	
	3912.20	- Cellulose nitrates (including collodions):	
	3912.20 10	- - - Non-plasticised:	
	3912.20 11	- - - - Water-based semi-finished nitrocellulose	3
	3912.20 19	- - - - Other	2001 - 7 2002 - 5 2003 - 5 2004 - 5
	3912.20 20	- - - X X X	
		- X X X	
	3912.31 00	- - X X X	
	3912.39 00	- - X X X	
	3912.90 00	- X X X	
39.20		**Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, non-cellular and not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials.**	
	3920.10 00 to 3920.42 00	- X X X	
		- Of acrylic polymers:	
	3920.51 00	- - Of polymethyl methacrylate	2001 - 7 2002 - 7 2003 - 7 2004 - 5
	3920.59 00 to 3920.99 00	- - X X X	
47.02	4702.00 00	**Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades.**	1
47.06		**Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard or of other fibrous cellulosic material.**	
	4706.10 00	- Cotton linters pulp	1
	4706.20 00	- Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	1
		- Other:	
	4706.91 00	- - Mechanical	1
	4706.92 00	- - Chemical	1
	4706.93 00	- - Semi-chemical	1
48.02		**Uncoated paper and paperboard, of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes, and punch card stock and punch tape paper, in rolls or sheets, other than paper of heading No. 48.01 or 48.03; hand-made paper and paperboard.**	
	4802.10 00 to 4802.40 00	- X X X	
		- Other paper and paperboard, not containing fibres obtained by a mechanical process or of which not more than 10% by weight of the total fibre content consists of such fibres:	
	4802.51 00	- - X X X	
	4802.52	- - Weighing 40 g/m² or more but not more than 150 g/m²:	
	4802.52 10	- - - Fancy paper and paperboard including with watermarks, granatized felt finish, fibers or blend of specks and vellum antique finish weighing 40 g/m² or more but not more than 150 g/m²	1
	4802.52 90	- - - X X X	
	4802.53	- Weighing more than 150 g/m²:	
	4802.53 10	- - - Fancy paper and paperboard including with watermarks, granatized felt finish, fibers or blend of specks and vellum antique finish weighing more than 150 g/m²	1
	4802.53 90	- - - X X X	
	4802.60 00	- X X X	
48.04		**Uncoated kraft paper and paperboard, in rolls or sheets, other than that of heading No. 48.02 or 48.03.**	
		- X X X	
	4804.11 00	- - X X X	
	4804.19 00	- - X X X	
		- Sack kraft paper:	
	4804.21 00	- - Unbleached	3
	4804.29 00 to 4804.39 00	- - X X X	
		- Other kraft paper and paperboard weighing more than 150 g/m² but less than 225 g/m²:	
	4804.41	- - Unbleached:	
	4804.41 10	- - - Electrical grade insulating kraft paper	1
	4804.41 90	- - - X X X	
	4804.42 00	- - X X X	
	4804.49 00	- - X X X	
		- Other kraft paper and paperboard weighing 225 g/m² or more:	
	4804.51	- - Unbleached:	
	4804.51 10	- - - Electrical grade insulating kraft paper; pressboard weighing 600 g/m² or more	1
	4804 51 90	- - - X X X	
	4804.52 00	- - X X X	
	4804.59 00	- - X X X	
48.05		**Other uncoated paper and paperboard, in rolls or sheets, not further worked or processed than as specified in Note 2 to this Chapter.**	
	4805.10 00 to 4805.29 00	- X X X	
	4805.30	- Sulphite wrapping paper:	
	4805.30 10	- - - Coloured match wrapping paper	1
	4805.30 90	- - - X X X	
	4805.40 00	- Filter paper and paperboard	1
	4805.50 00	- X X X	
	4805.60	- Other paper and paperboard, weighing 150 g/m² or less:	
	4805.60 10	- - - Paper used as interleaf material for the packing of flat glass products, with a resin content of not more than 0.6%	1
	4805.60 90	- - - X X X	
	4805.70 00	- X X X	
	4805.80 00	- X X X	
48.06		**Vegetable parchment, greaseproof papers, tracing papers and glassine and other glazed transparent or translucent papers, in rolls or sheets.**	
	4806.10 00	- Vegetable parchment	1
	4806.20 00	- Greaseproof papers	1
	4806.30 00	- Tracing papers	1
	4806.40 00	- Glassine and other glazed transparent or translucent papers	1
48.09		**Carbon paper, self-copy paper and other copying or transfer papers (including coated or impregnated paper for duplicator stencils or offset plates), whether or not printed, in rolls or sheets.**	
	4809.10 00	- X X X	
	4809.20 00	- Self-copy paper	1
	4809.90 00	- Other	1
48.10		**Paper and paperboard, coated on one or both sides with kaolin (China clay) or other inorganic substances, with or without a binder, and with no other coating, whether or not surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed, in rolls or sheets.**	
		- Paper and paperboard of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes, not containing fibres obtained by a mechanical process or of which not more than 10% by weight of the total fibre content consists of such fibres:	
	4810.11 00	- - Weighing not more than 150 g/m²	1
	4810.12 00	- - Weighing more than 150 g/m²	1
		- Paper and paperboard of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes, of which more than 10% by weight of the total fibre content consists of fibres obtained by a mechanical process:	
	4810.21 00	- - Light-weight coated paper	1
	4810.29 00	- - Other	1
		- Kraft paper and paperboard, other than that of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes:	
	4810.31 00	- - Bleached uniformly throughout the mass and of which more than 95% by weight of the total fibre content consists of wood fibres obtained by a chemical process, and weighing 150 g/m² or less	1
	4810.32 00	- - Bleached uniformly throughout the mass and of which more than 95% by weight of the total fibre content consists of wood fibres obtained by a chemical process, and weighing more than 150 g/m²	1
	4810.39 00	- - Other	1
		- Other paper and paperboard:	
	4810.91	- - Multi-ply:	
	4810.91 10	- - - X X X	
	4810.91 90	- - - Other	1
	4810.99 00	- - Other	1
48.11		**Paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, coated, impregnated, covered, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed, in rolls or sheets, other than goods of the kind described in heading No. 48.03, 48.09 or 48.10.**	
	4811.10 00	- X X X	
		- Gummed or adhesive paper and paperboard:	
	4811.21 00	- - Self-adhesive	1
	4811.29 00	- - Other	1
		- Paper and paperboard coated, impregnated or covered with plastics (excluding adhesives):	
	4811.31 00	- - X X X	
	4811.39 00	- - Other	1
	4811.40 00	- X X X	
	4811.90 00	- Other paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres	1
48.16		**Carbon paper, self-copy paper and other copying or transfer papers (other than those of heading No. 48.09), duplicator stencils and offset plates, of paper, whether or not put up in boxes.**	
	4816.10 00	- X X X	
	4816.20 00	- Self-copy Paper	1
	4816.30 00	- Duplicator Stencils	1
	4816.90 00	- Other	1
48.23		**Other paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, cut to size or shape; other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres.**	
		- X X X	
	4823.11 to 4823.19 00	- - X X X	
	4823.20 00	- Filter paper and paperboard	1
	4823.40	- X X X	
	4823 40 10	- - - X X X	
	4823.40 90	- - - X X X	
		- Other paper and paperboard, of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes:	
	4823.51 00	- - X X X	
	4823.59	- - Other:	
	4823.59 10	- - - Coated paper and paperboard used for inkjet printing	1
	4823.59 90	- - - X X X	
	4823.60 00	- X X X	
	4823.70 00	- X X X	
	4823.90	- Other:	
	4823.90 10 to 4823.90 40	- - - X X X	
	4823.90 50	- - - Ensocup board, (i.e., polyethylene (PE) coated paperboard used for the manufacture of papercup bottoms), in reels of a width of less than 10 cm	1
	4823.90 60	- - - X X X	
	4823.90 70	- - - Paper used as interleaf material for separating in-process battery plates	1
	4823.90 80	- - - Die-cut polyethylene (PE) coated paperboard for paper cup-making	1
	4823.90 90	- - - X X X	
54.03		**Artificial filament yarn (other than sewing thread), not put up for retail sale, including artificial monofilament of less than 67 decitex.**	
	5403.10 00	- X X X	
	5403.20 00	- X X X	
		- Other yarn, single:	
	5403.31 00	- - Of viscose rayon, untwisted or with a twist not exceeding 120 turns per metre	1
	5403.32 00	- - X X X	
	5403.33 00	- - X X X	
	5403.39 00	- - X X X	
		- Other yarn, multiple (folded) or cabled:	
	5403.41 00	- - X X X	
	5403.42 00	- - Of cellulose acetate	1
	5403.49 00	- - X X X	
54.07		**Woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn, including woven fabrics obtained from materials of heading No. 54.04.**	
	5407.10	- Woven fabrics obtained from high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides or of polyesters:	
	5407.10 10	- - - Tire woven fabrics and conveyor duck	1
	5407.10 90	- - - X X X	
	5407.20 00	- X X X	
	5407.30 00	- X X X	
		- Other woven fabrics, containing 85% or more by weight of filaments of nylon or other polyamides:	
	5407.41	- - Unbleached or bleached:	
	5407.41 10	- - - Nylon mesh fabric of untwisted filament yarns for use as reinforcing material for tarpaulin sheeting	1
	5407.41 90 to 5407.94 00	- - - X X X	
55.02	5502.00 00	**Artificial filament tow.**	1

HDG. NO.	H.S. CODE	DESCRIPTION	RATE OF DUTY (%)
55.03		**Synthetic staple fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning.**	
	5503.10 00	- X X X	
	5503.20 00	- Of polyesters	1
	5503.30 00	- Acrylic or modacrylic	1
	5503.40 00	- X X X	
	5503.90 00	- X X X	
55.04		**Artificial staple fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning.**	
	5504.10 00	- Of viscose rayon	1
	5504.90 00	- X X X	
56.01		**Wadding of textile materials and articles thereof; textile fibres, not exceeding 5mm in length (flock), textile dust and mill neps.**	
	5601.10 00 to 5601.29 00	- X X X	
	5601.30	- Textile flock and dust and mill neps:	
	5601.30 10	- - - Polyamide fiber flock	1
	5601.30 20	- - - Polypropylene fiber flock	1
	5601.30 90	- - - X X X	
56.07		**Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, whether or not plaited or braided and whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or sheathed with rubber or plastics.**	
	5607.10 00 to 5607.49 00	- X X X - - X X X	
	5607.50	- Of other synthetic fibres:	
	5607.50 10	- - - V-belt cord of man-made fibres treated with resorcinol formaldehyde	1
	5607.50 20	- - - Kevlar (polyamide) and Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) yarns measuring more than 10,000 decitex, used in the manufacture of textile packings	1
	5607.50 90	- - - X X X	
	5607.90 00	- X X X	
59.02		**Tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon.**	
	5902.10 00	- X X X	
	5902.20 00	- Of polyesters	1
	5902.90 00	- X X X	
J.11		**Textile products and articles, for technical uses, specified in Note 7 to this Chapter.**	
	5911.10 00	- Textile fabrics, felt and felt-lined woven fabrics, coated, covered or laminated with rubber. eather or other material, of a kind used for card clothing, and similar fabrics of a kind used for other technical purposes, including narrow fabrics made of velvet impregnated with rubber, for covering weaving spindles (weaving beams)	1
	5911.20 00	- Bolting cloth, whether or not made up	1
		- X X X	
	5911.31 00 to 5911.90 90	- - X X X	
68.04		**Millstones, grindstones, grinding wheels and the like, without frameworks, for grinding, sharpening, polishing, trueing or cutting, hand sharpening or polishing stones, and parts thereof, of natural stone, of agglomerated natural or artificial abrasives, or of ceramics, with or without parts of other materials.**	
	6804.10 00	- X X X	
		- Other millstones, grindstones, grinding wheels and the like:	
	6804.21 00	- - Of agglomerated synthetic or natural diamond	1
	6804.22 00	- - Of other agglomerated abrasives or of ceramics	1
	6804.23 00	- - Of natural stone	1
	6804.30 00	- X X X	
68.06		**Slag wool, rock wool and similar mineral wools; exfoliated vermiculite, expanded clays, foamed slag and similar expanded mineral materials; mixtures and articles of heat-insulating, sound-insulating or sound-absorbing mineral materials, other than those of heading No. 68.11 or 68.12 or of Chapter 69.**	
	6806.10 00	- Slag wool, rock wool and similar mineral wools (including intermixtures thereof), in bulk, sheets or rolls	1
	6806.20 00	- X X X	
	6806.90 00	- X X X	
68.12		**Fabricated asbestos fibres; mixtures with a basis of asbestos or with a basis of asbestos and magnesium carbonate; articles of such mixtures or of asbestos (for example, thread, woven fabric, clothing, headgear, footwear, gaskets), whether or not reinforced, other than goods of heading No. 68.11 or 68.13.**	
	6812.10 00	- X X X	
	6812.20 00	- Yarn and thread	1
	6812.30 00 to 6812.90 00	- X X X	
68.15		**Articles of stone or of other mineral substances (including carbon fibres, articles of carbon fibres and articles of peat), not elsewhere specified or included.**	
	6815.10	- Non-electrical articles of graphite or other carbon:	
	6815.10 10	- - - Yarn and thread	1
	6815.10 90 to 6815.99 00	- - - X X X	
70.02		**Glass in balls (other than microspheres of heading No. 70.18), rods or tubes, unworked.**	
	7002.10 00	- X X X	
	7002.20 00	- X X X	
		- Tubes:	
	7002.31 00	- - Of fused quartz or other fused silica	1
	7002.32 00	- - X X X	
	7002.39 00	- - Other	1
70.10		**Carboys, bottles, flasks, jars, pots, phials, ampoules and other containers, of glass, of a kind used for the conveyance or packing of goods; preserving jars of glass; stoppers, lids and other closures, of glass.**	
	7010.10 00	- Ampoules	1
	7010.20 00	- X X X	
		- Other, of a capacity:	
	7010.91	- - X X X	
	7010.91 10	- - - X X X	
	7010.91 90	- - - X X X	
	7010.92	- - Exceeding 0.33 l but not exceeding 1 l:	
	7010.92 10	- - - Bottles for antibiotics, serums and other injectables	1
	7010.92 90	- - - X X X	
	7010.93	- - Exceeding 0.15 l but not exceeding 0.33 l:	
	7010.93 10	- - - Bottles and vials for antibiotics, serums and other injectables	1
	7010.93 90	- - - X X X	
	7010.94	- - Not exceeding 0.15 l:	
	7010.94 10	- - - Bottles and vials for antibiotics serums and other injectables	1
	7010.94 90	- - - X X X	
70.11		**Glass envelopes (including bulbs and tubes), open and glass parts thereof, without fittings, for electric lamps, cathode-ray tubes or the like.**	
	7011.10 00	- For electric lighting	1
	7011.20 00	- X X X	
	7011.90 00	- X X X	
72.01		**Pig iron and spiegeleisen in pigs, blocks or other primary forms.**	
	7201.10 00	- Non-alloy pig iron containing by weight 0.5% or less of phosphorus	1
	7201.20 00	- Non-alloy pig iron containing by weight more than 0.5% of phosphorus	1
	7201.50 00	- Alloy pig iron; spiegeleisen	1
72.02		**Ferro-alloys.**	
		- Ferro-manganese:	
	7202 11 00	- - Containing by weight more than 2% of carbon	1
	7202.19 00	- - Other	1
		- Ferro-silicon:	
	7202.21 00	- - Containing by weight more than 55% of silicon	1
	7202.29 00	- - Other	1
	7202.30 00	- Ferro-silico-manganese	1
		- Ferro-chromium:	
	7202.41 00	- - Containing by weight more than 4% of carbon	1
	7202.49 00	- - Other	1
	7202.50 00	- Ferro-silico-chromium	1
	7202.60 00	- Ferro-nickel	1
	7202.70 00	- Ferro-molybdenum	1
	7202.80 00	- Ferro-tungsten and ferro-silico-tungsten	1
		- Other:	
	7202.91 00	- - Ferro-titanium and ferro-silico-titanium	1
	7202.92 00	- - Ferro-vanadium	1
	7202.93 00	- - Ferro-niobium	1
	7202.99 00	- - Other	1
72.05		**Granules and powders, of pig iron, spiegeleisen, iron or steel.**	
	7205.10 00	- Granules	1
		- X X X	
	7205.21 00	- - X X X	
	7205.29 00	- - X X X	
72.10		**Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated.**	
		- X X X	
	7210.11 00 to 7210.49 00	- - X X X	
	7210.50 00	- Plated or coated with chromium oxides or with chromium and chromium oxides	1
		- X X X	
	7210.61 00 to 7210.90 00	- - X X X	
72.12		**Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated.**	
	7212.10 00 to 7212.40 00	- X X X	
	7212.50	- Otherwise plated or coated:	
	7212.50 10	- - - Tin-Free Steel (TFS)	1
	7212.50 90	- - - X X X	
	7212.60 00	- X X X	
72.17		**Wire of iron or non-alloy steel.**	
	7217.10 00 to 7217.20 90	- X X X	
	7217.30	- Plated or coated with other base metals:	
	7217.30 10	- - - Bead wire (copper coated high carbon steel wire for pneumatic rubber tires)	1
	7217.30 90	- - - X X X	
	7217.90 00	- X X X	
72.19		**Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more.**	
		- X X X	
	7219.11 00 to 7219.24 00	- - X X X	
		- Not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced):	
	7219.31 00 to 7219.34 00	- - X X X	
	7219.35 00	- - Of a thickness of less than 0.5 mm	1
	7219.90 00	- Other	1
72.20		**Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of less than 600 mm.**	
		- X X X	
	7220.11 00	- - X X X	
	7220.12 00	- - X X X	
	7220.20 00	- Not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced)	1
	7220.90 00	- X X X	
72.21	7221.00 00	**Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of stainless steel.**	1
72.23	7223.00 00	**Wire of stainless steel.**	1
72.26		**Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm.**	
		- Of silicon-electrical steel:	
	7226.11 00	- - Grain-oriented	1
	7226.19 00 to 7226.99 00	- - X X X	
72.27		**Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of other alloy steel.**	
	7227.10 00	- X X X	
	7227.20 00	- Of silico-manganese steel	1
	7227.90 00	- X X X	
73.12		**Stranded wire, ropes, cables, plaited bands, slings and the like, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated.**	
	7312.10	- Stranded wire, ropes and cables:	
	7312.10 10	- - - X X X	
	7312.10 20	- - - Plated or coated with brass, of a nominal diameter not exceeding 3 mm	1
	7312.10 90	- - - X X X	
	7312.90 00	- X X X	
74.03		**Refined copper and copper alloys, unwrought.**	
		- X X X	
	7403.11 00 to 7403.19 00	- - X X X	
		- Copper alloys:	
	7403.21 00	- - Copper-zinc base alloys (brass)	1
	7403.22 00	- - Copper-tin base alloys (bronze)	1
	7403.23 00	- - Copper-nickel base alloys (cupro-nickel) or copper-nickel-zinc base alloys (nickel silver)	1
	7403.29 00	- - Other copper alloys (other than master alloys of heading No. 74.05)	1
74.06		**Copper powder and flakes.**	
	7406.10 00	- X X X	
	7406.20 00	- Powders of lamellar structure; flakes	1
74.07		**Copper bars, rods and profiles.**	
	7407.10 00	- Of refined copper	1
		- X X X	
	7407.21 00	- - X X X	
	7407.22 00	- - X X X	
	7407.29 00	- - X X X	
74.08		**Copper wire.**	
		- Of refined copper:	
	7408.11 00	- - Of which the maximum cross-sectional dimension exceeds 6 mm	1
	7408.19 00 to 7408.29 00	- - X X X	
74.09		**Copper plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.15 mm.**	
		- Of refined copper:	
	7409.11 00	- - In coils	1
	7409.19 00	- - X X X	
		- Of copper-zinc base alloys (brass):	
	7409.21 00	- - In coils	
			1
	7409.29 00	- - X X X	
		- Of copper-tin base alloys (bronze):	
	7409.31 00	- - In coils	1
	7409.39 00	- - X X X	
	7409.40 00	- X X X	
	7409.90 00	- X X X	
74.10		**Copper foil (whether or not printed or backed with paper, paperboard, plastics or similar backing materials), of a thickness (excluding any backing) not exceeding 0.15 mm.**	
		- X X X	
	7410.11 00	- - X X X	
	7410.12 00	- - X X X	
		- Backed:	
	7410.21 00	- - Of refined copper	1
	7410.22 00	- - X X X	
74.11		**Copper tubes and pipes.**	
	7411.10 00	- Of refined copper	1
		- X X X	
	7411.21 00	- - X X X	
	7411.22 00	- - X X X	
	7411.29 00	- - X X X	
74.12		**Copper tube or pipe fittings (for example, couplings, elbows, sleeves).**	
	7412.10 00	- Of refined copper	1
	7412.20 00	- X X X	
75.02		**Unwrought nickel.**	
	7502.10 00	- Nickel, not alloyed	1
	7502.20 00	- Nickel alloys	1
75.04	7504.00 00	**Nickel powders and flakes.**	1
75.05		**Nickel bars, rods, profiles and wire.**	
		- Bars, rods and profiles:	
	7505.11 00	- - Of nickel, not alloyed	1
	7505.12 00	- - Of nickel alloys	1
		- Wire:	
	7505.21 00	- - Of nickel, not alloyed	1
	7505.22 00	- - Of nickel alloys	1
76.01		**Unwrought aluminium.**	
	7601.10 00	- Aluminium, not alloyed	1
	7601.20 00	- Aluminium alloys	1
76.02	7602.00 00	**Aluminium waste and scrap.**	1
76.03		**Aluminium powders and flakes.**	
	7603.10 00	- Powders of non-lamellar structure	1
	7603.20 00	- X X X	
76.06		**Aluminium plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm.**	
		- Rectangular (including square):	
	7606.11 00	- - X X X	
	7606.12	- - Of aluminium alloys:	
	7606.12 10	- - - Can stock (Alloy 3004, 3104 or 5182, of temper H19); End stocks (Alloy 5182, 5052 or 5042, of temper H19, H39 or H48); Tab stocks (Alloy 5182, 5082 or 5042, of temper H19, H39, H48 or H391), in coils	1
	7606.12 90 to 7606.92 00	- - - X X X	
78.03	7803.00 00	**Lead bars, rods, profiles and wire.**	1
79.01		**Unwrought zinc.**	
		- Zinc, not alloyed:	
	7901.11 00	- - Containing by weight 99.99% or more of zinc	1
	7901.12 00	- - Containing by weight less than 99.99% of zinc	1
	7901.20 00	- Zinc alloys	1
80.01		**Unwrought tin.**	
	8001.10 00	- Tin, not alloyed	1
	8001.20 00	- X X X	
80.03	8003.00 00	**Tin bars, rods, profiles and wire.**	1
81.02		**Molybdenum and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.**	
	8102.10 00	- X X X	
		- Other:	
	8102.91 00	- - X X X	
	8102.92 00	- - X X X	
	8102.93 00	- - Wire	1
	8102.99 00	- - X X X	
81.05		**Cobalt mattes and other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; cobalt and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.**	
	8105.10 00	- Cobalt mattes and other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; unwrought cobalt; waste and scrap; powders	1
	8105.90 00	- Other	1
81.10	8110.00 00	**Antimony and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.**	1
82.02		**Hand saws; blades for saws of all kinds (including slitting, slotting or toothless saw blades).**	
	8202.10 00	- X X X	
	8202.20 00	- X X X	
		- Circular saw blades (including slitting or slotting saw blades):	
	8202.31 00	- - With working part of steel	1
	8202.39 00	- - Other, including parts	1
	8202.40 00 to 8202.99 00	- X X X	
82.04		**Hand-operated spanners and wrenches (including torque meter wrenches but not including tap wrenches); interchangeable spanner sockets, with or without handles.**	
		- Hand-operated spanners and wrenches:	
	8204.11 00	- - Non-adjustable	1
	8204.12 00	- - Adjustable	1
	8204.20 00	- X X X	
82.05		**Hand tools (including glaziers' diamonds), not elsewhere specified or included; blow lamps; vices, clamps and the like, other than accessories for and parts of, machine tools; anvils; portable forges; hand- or pedal-operated grinding wheels with frameworks.**	
	8205.10 00	- Drilling, threading or tapping tools	1
	8205.20 00 to 8205.90 00	- X X X	
85.23		**Prepared unrecorded media for sound recording or similar recording of other phenomena, other than products of Chapter 37.**	
		- Magnetic tapes:	
	8523.11 to 8523.12 90	- - X X X	
	8523.13	- - Of a width exceeding 6.5 mm:	
	8523.13 10	- - - X X X	
	8523.13 20	- - - In pancake or jumbo forms	3
	8523.13 90	- - - X X X	
	8523.20 to 8523 90 90	- X X X	

MARICEL Soriano is Best Actress nominee for "Mila."

25th Gawad Urian ends movie awards season on May 11

THE 25TH Gawad Urian will be held on May 11, 6 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum.

Produced by the well regarded production company Tape, the award ceremony is expected to end the movie awards season with a bang. Since it is given out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the highly respected society of film critics, the Gawad Urian is considered the most important barometer of Philippine film excellence.

BEST Actor nominee Carlos Aquino is cited for "Minsan may Isang Puso."

The nominees are:

Best Picture—"Batang West Side," "La Vida Rosa," "Live Show," "Minsan may Isang Puso," "Hubog"

Best Actress—Rosanna Roces, "La Vida Rosa"; Jaclyn Jose, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Assunta de Rossi, "Hubog"; Maricel Soriano, "Mila"; Mylene Dizon, "Gatas"

Best Actor—Joel Torre, "Batang West Side"; Diether Ocampo, "La Vida Rosa"; Paulo Rivero, "Live Show"; Carlo Aquino, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Ricky Davao, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Cesar Montano, "Bagong Buwan"; Mark Anthony Fernandez, "Dos Ekis"

Best Supporting Actress—Gloria Diaz, "Batang West Side"; Pricilla Almeda, "Batang West Side"; Liza Lorena, "La Vida Rosa"; Klaudia Koronel, "Live Show"; Hazel Espinosa, "Live Show"; Alessandra de Rossi, "Hubog"

Best Supporting Actor—Raul Arellano, "Batang West Side"; Jiro Mano, "La Vida Rosa"; Simoun Ibarra, "Live Show"; Wendell Ramos, "Hubog"; Jay Manalo, "Hubog"; Carlo Muñoz, "Yamashita, The Tiger's Treasure"

Direction—Lav Diaz, "Batang West Side"; Chito Roño, "La Vida Rosa"; Jose Javier Reyes, "Live Show"; Jose Javier Reyes, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Joel Lamangan, "Hubog"

Screenplay—Lav Diaz, "Batang West Side"; Armando Lao, "La Vida Rosa"; Jose Javier Reyes, "Live Show"; Jose Javier Reyes, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Roy Iglesias, "Hubog"

Cinematography—Miguel Fabie III, "Batang West Side"; Neil Daza, "La Vida Rosa"; Eduardo Jacinto, "Live Show"; Eduardo Jacinto, "Minsan May Isang Puso"; Romulo Araojo, "Hubog"; Jan Tadena, "Dos Ekis"; Eduardo Jacinto, "Bagong Buwan"

Editing—Ron Dale, "Batang West Side"; Joyce Bernal and Vito Cajili, "La Vida Rosa"; Vito Cajili, "Live Show"; Tara Illenberger, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Tara Illenberger, "Hubog"; Danilo Gloria, "Dos Ekis"

Production Design—Cesar Hernando, "Batang West Side"; Gerry Pascual, "La Vida Rosa"; Jake de Asis, "Live Show"; Jake de Asis, "Minsan may Isang Puso"; Larry Matic, "Hubog"; Rodell Cruz, "Dos Ekis"

Music—Joey Ayala, "Batang West Side"; Jay Durias, "La Vida Rosa"; Jesse Lucas, "Live Show"; Jessie Lasaten, "Hubog"; Lourd de Veyra, "Dos Ekis"

Sound—Rudy Gonzales and Alex Tomboc, "Batang West Side"; Addisa Tabong and Alex Tomboc, "La Vida Rosa"; Albert Michael Idioma, "Live Show"; A.M. Idioma, "Hubog"; A.M. Idioma and Ruby Gonzales, "Bagong Buwan"

CARLO Muñoz is Best Supporting Actor nominee for "Yamashita, The Tiger's Treasure."

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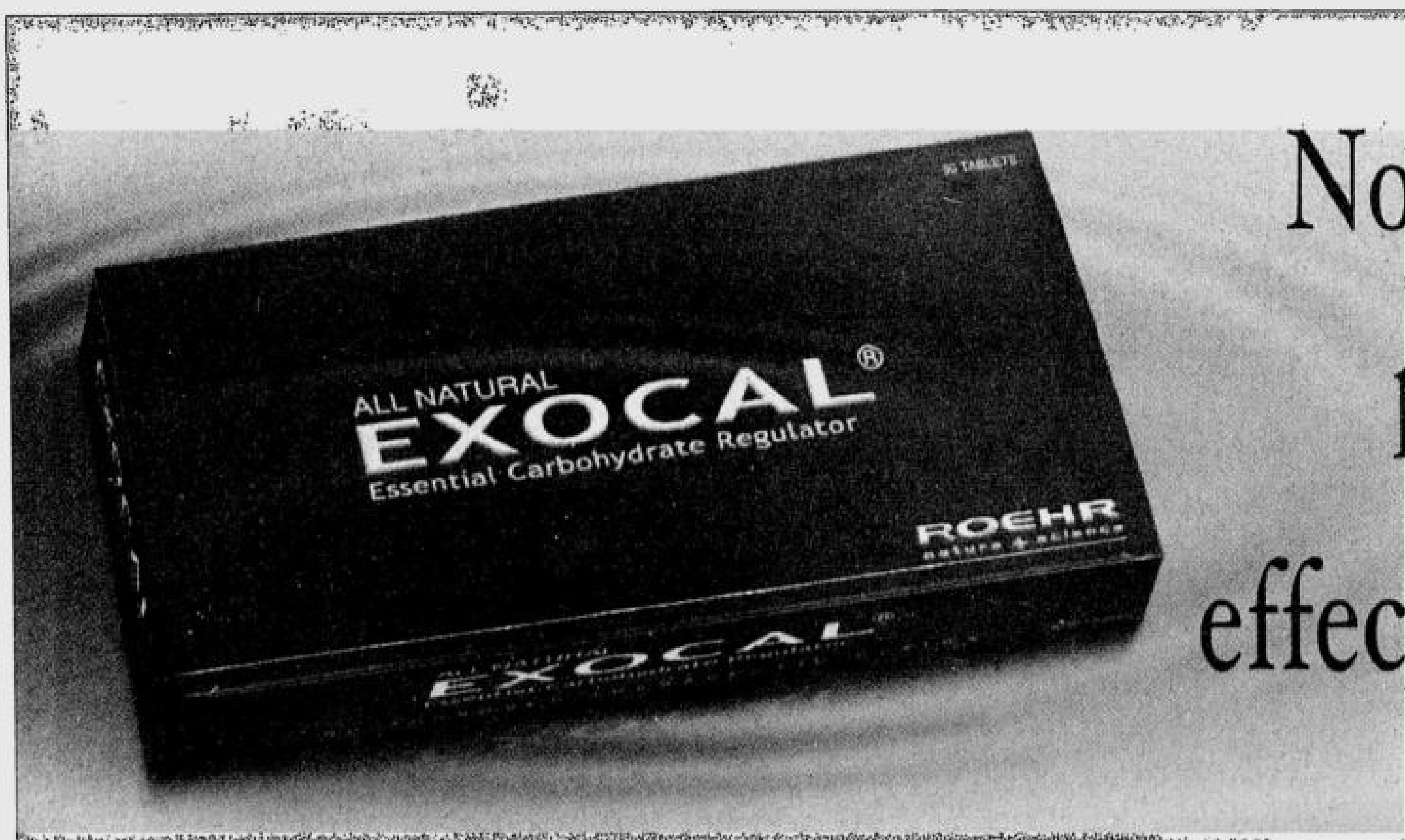

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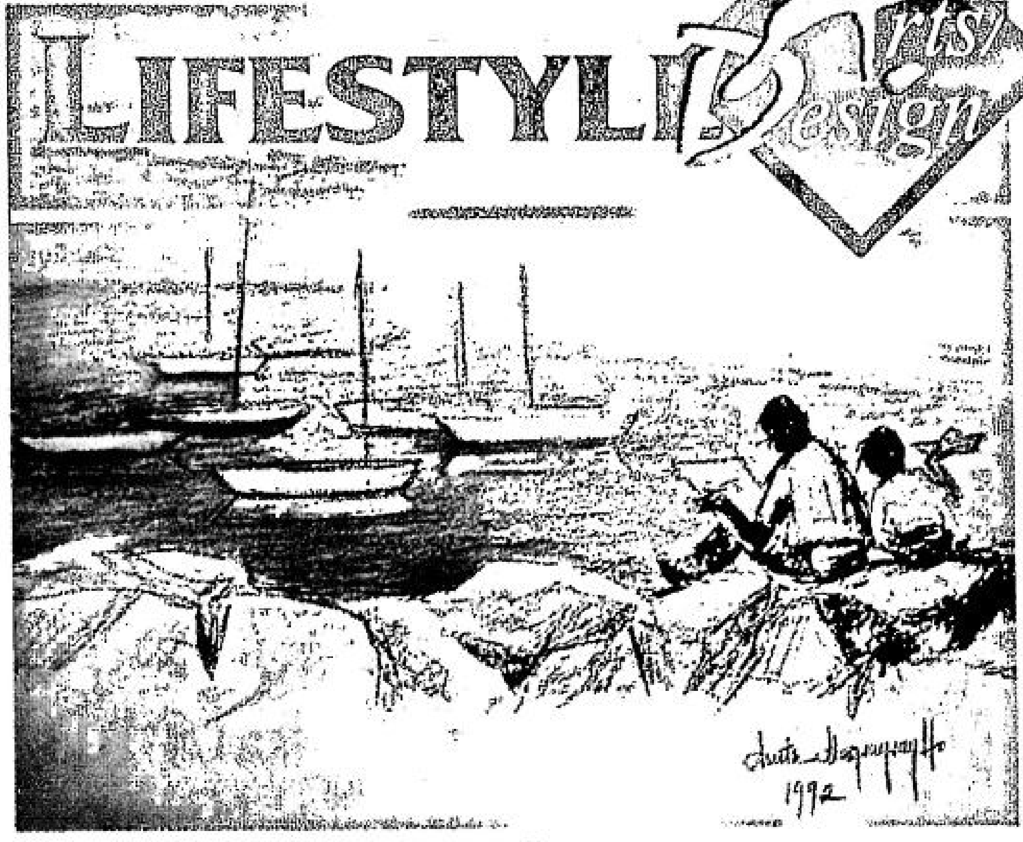

"MANILA Bay Scene," pastel, by Magsaysay-Ho

Art auction to raise funds for Heritage Conservation Society

STORY ON PAGE E2

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ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:
AM 9:30 - 11:30 PM 1:45 - 3:45

Dimsum - 12 recipes on April 15, 16, 17, 18 (AM) and another set of 12 recipes on April 22, 23, 25, 26 (PM)
Popular Cantonese Dishes - 16 recipes on April 22, 23, 24, 25 (AM)
Family & Short Order Dishes - 16 different recipes on May 6, 7, 8, 9 (PM)
Vegetarian Dishes - 16 different recipes on May 13, 14, 15, 16 (AM)
Banquet & Party Dishes - 16 recipes on May 20, 21, 22, 23 (PM)
Roasting - due to insistent demand; last 5 meetings for 7 complete recipes on May 27 (AM), 28 & 29 (AM & PM)

SPECIAL ONE-MEETING LESSONS:
April 19 Am/Pm How to make Ho Fen & Cheung Fen, w/ 3 Ho Fen dishes & 3 Cheung Fen recipes
April 20 Am Tikoy, Radish Cake, Squash Cake
May 03 Am Hong Kong Style Siopao with Different Fillings
May 10 Am Greased Fried Siopao, Fried Dumplings, Almond Cookies
May 11 Am Chicken Feet, Spicy Spare Ribs, Almond Gelatin
May 17 Am Kua Pao with Sliced Pork Filling, Techni-Color Shrimp Dumplings, Singapore "Mah Kut Te"
May 18 Am Fried Duck with Crispy Taro, Fish Fillet with Bean Curd, Gold & Silver Egg with Spinach in Stock, Shrimps Stuffed in Lychee

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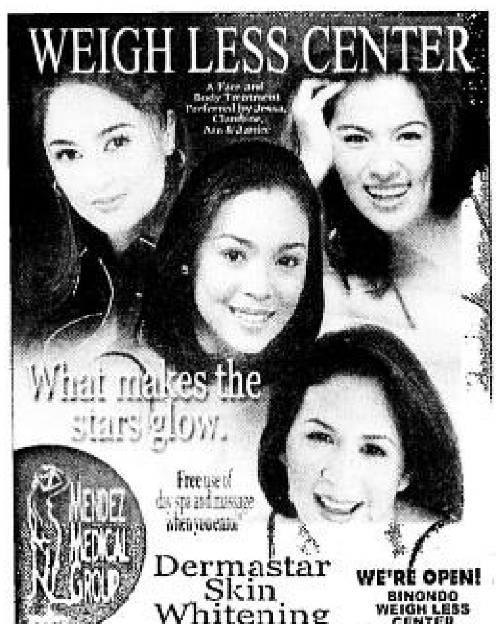

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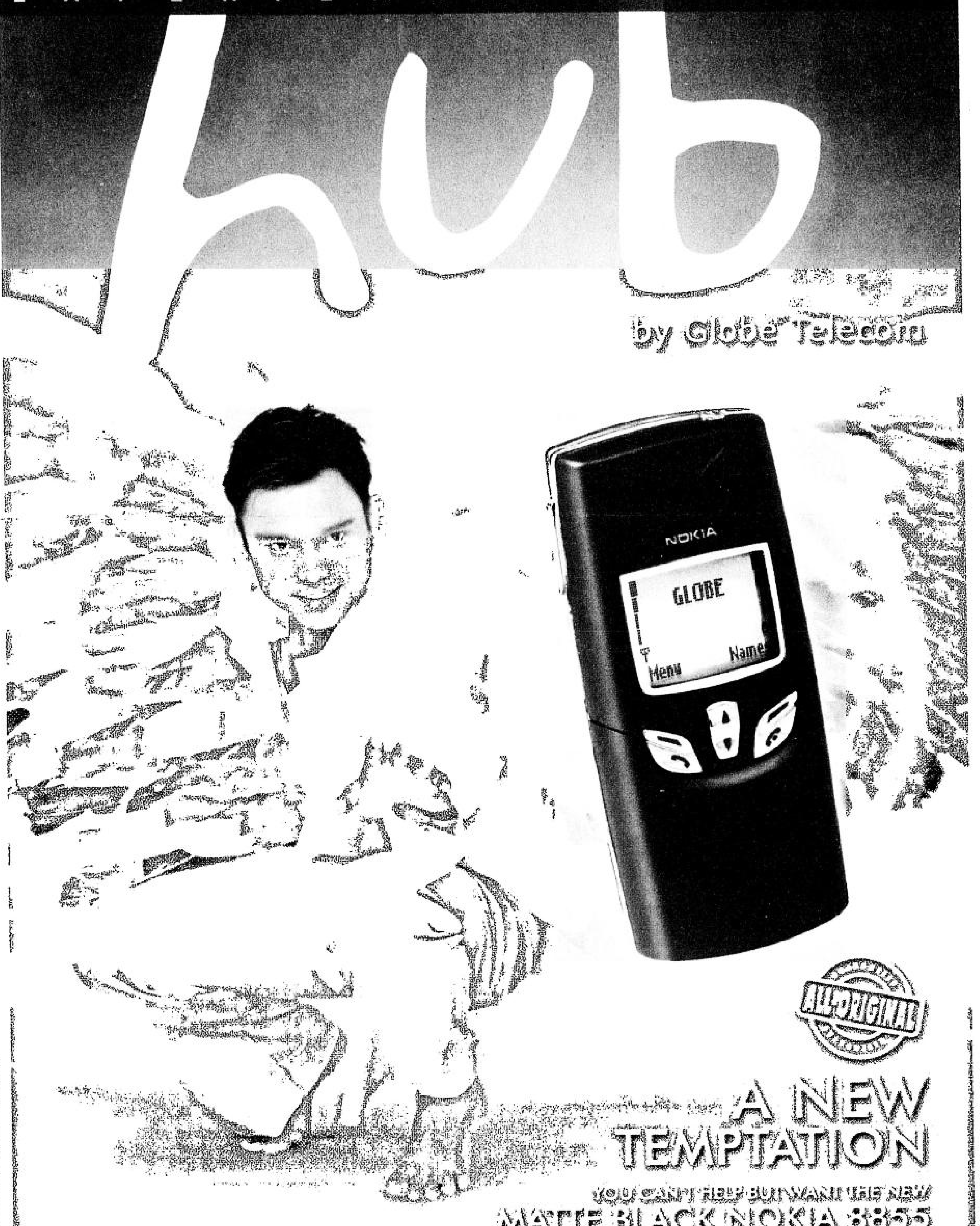

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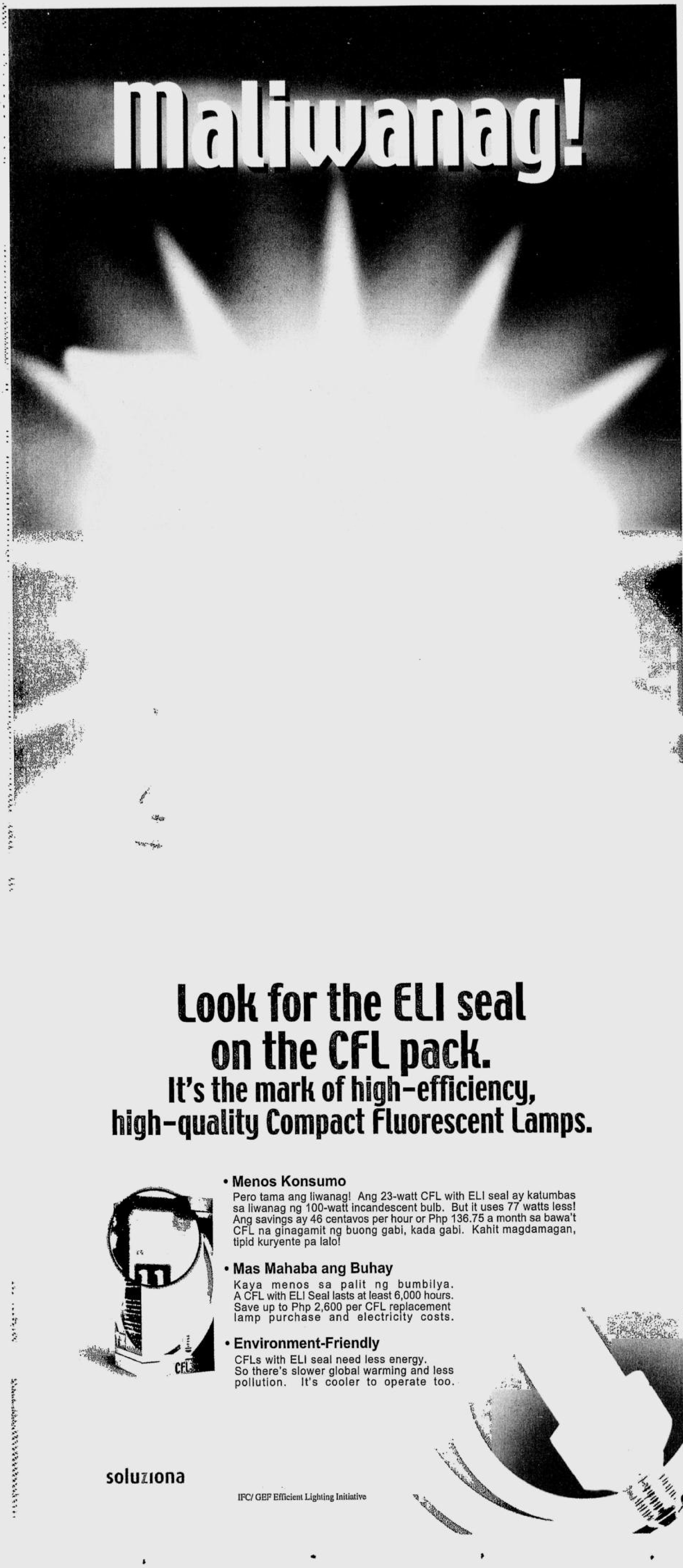
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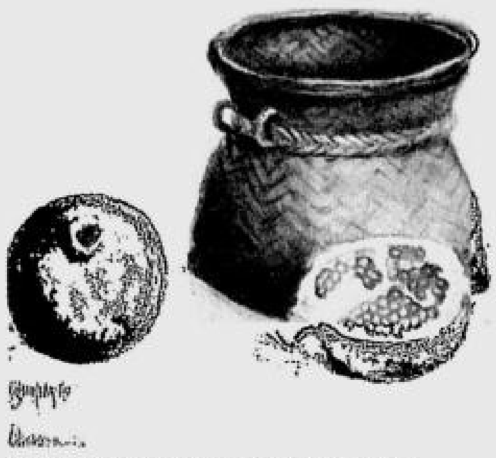

A STILL life in oil by Magsaysay-Ho

Art auction to raise funds for Heritage Conservation Society

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE SOCIETY Auction" helps raise funds for the Heritage Conservation Society. Two auctions will be held simultaneously. A silent and public bidding for artwork will be held at Le Soufflé, The Fort on April 27, 5:30-8 p.m. The auctioneers will be Tessa Prieto-Valdez and John Silva.

The works for the auction have been donated by 'National Artist Napoleon Abueva and outstanding artists such as Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Alan Cosio, Ivi-Avellana Cosio, Sansó and Ramon Orlina. Photographers Denise Weldon and Neal Oshima have also donated their works. Collector Joey Panlilio has donated an antique piece. More donations have been promised by other collectors.

Ticket holders to the auction are entitled to cocktails by Le Soufflé, door prizes (from Island Spice, Nike, Speedo, Mix and others) and the chance to bid for the artwork.

Heritage leader

What has the HCS done in the four years of its existence? It has emerged as the leading nongovernment authority in conservation matters, taking its active members through a wide range of experiences.

The Society's most visible involvement is the still unresolved Mehan Garden issue. It led a coalition of heritage and environmental NGOs in protest against the constructions of the Park N' Ride and the new campus for the City Colleges of Manila in the historic site. Park N' Ride, a bus terminal cum mall constructed on Mehan Garden grounds, right next to the Metropolitan Theater, was illegally completed despite a temporary restraining order from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, issued on the grounds that the National Museum and National Historical Institute did not give the necessary clearances for construction on the archeological and historic site.

Currently, the construction of the City College of Manila campus remains stopped. An alternate site outside of Mehan Garden must still to be found. However, the Society and its allied NGOs continue to crusade for rehabilitating the site so that it can become a park to clear Manila's polluted air and provide more green spaces for the city resident to enjoy.

Saving the Arroceros Forest Park is another issue that the Society and its NGO allies are handling. They will celebrate Earth Day at the Forest Park grounds on April 21. The Forest Park is worth seeing. It is an almost fully grown forest surprisingly situated along the Pasig at the foot of Quezon Bridge in congested central Manila.

Green vision

The Society has a vision of a green belt stretching from the Arroceros Forest Park through the Mehan Garden, encompassing the Metropolitan Theater and the Manila Post Office, and ending at the Puerta Parian of Intramuros. To bring part of this vision into reality, members of the society donated professional services to the City of Manila for the redesign of Liwasang Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton). Architects, landscape architects and art gallery managers worked with the Manila city architects to rework the city's proposed plan to produce a people-friendly plan for a green Liwasang Bonifacio. The rehabilitation of the area was saved, in the nick of time, replacing the original design of concrete colonnades, concrete paving and no greenery. A fountain was fitted in, trees added, with benches and adequate outdoor lighting fitted in. A revolving sculpture exhibit is now being sourced for the open area. During the concert that inaugurated the new park, Mayor Atienza congratulated the Society for cooperating with the city in improving the quality of life of Manileños. The increased number of people enjoying the park proves that Manila residents are hungry for people-friendly

ART/ p.E3

Art auction . . .

From page E2

parks.

On the other hand, the Society still disagrees with Atienza on the Park N' Ride and City College of Manila issues.

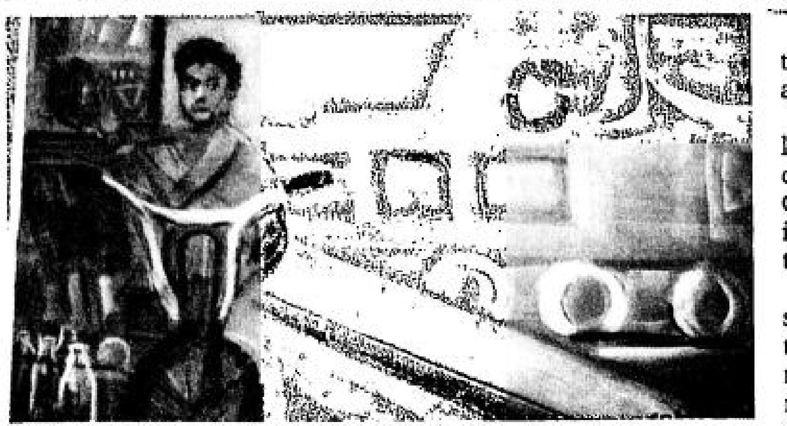
Determined to assist in protecting Intramuros, the Society has taken the lead in filing a court case against Dominador Ferrer Jr., the Intramuros Administration head, for allowing the construction of restaurants in various parts of the walls (not allowed by the Intramuros Building Code) without the benefit of public bidding.

On other fronts, the Society has actively worked with the DENR to suspend Environmental Clearance Certificates issued for the construction of a McDonald's outlet in the front lawn of the Balayan (Batangas) church and to prevent the construction of a highway right through the Huluga Caves archeological site in Cagayan de Oro.

Carcar issue

The Society has also taken a strong position against the construction of a provincial highway that runs through the center of historic Carcar town in southwest Cebu. The construction will not only cut through many of the 19th-century houses along the main road, it will also demolish the lovely American-period gazebo in the town's central rotunda.

To make more individuals aware of the endangered Filipino heritage, members of the Society have been active on the lecture circuit, speaking in different universities all over the country. Students have discovered and are using the library of heritage books, publications, and materials at the Society's secretariat at the Museo Pambata building in Rizal Park.



"A MANILA Harbor Scene" by Alan Cosio

Setting up the bases of heritage protection, legal volunteers of the Society have conducted community consultations in Quezon, Legaspi, Cagayan de Oro and other provinces to assist in the formation of conservation groups and the writing of conservation charters.

It hasn't been just marching in the streets, so to speak, in the name of preserving heritage for the Society. Its popular tours program runs every weekend, taking some of its 285 members and their guests on guided walks through historic sections of Manila.

It has not been easy for the Society, which is existing on a shoestring budget with the help of an energetic volunteer staff. The Society needs help so that it can continue its programs, and the way to help out is by buying a ticket to attend "The Society Auction" and to bid for any artwork that may be interesting enough to take home.

For ticket information or information on the Heritage Conservation Society, call the Secretariat at 521-2239, 522-2497 or text (0917) 795-2697 or (0917) 830-0293.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

Commissioned works at Figaro, Tagle at Nava, Mellor and Bolipata at West

SPRING comes to the business hub of the Ortigas Center with "Printemps au Figaro." Starting April 17, commissioned artworks of Jesse Alfonso, Cris Cruz, Lydia Velasco-Cruz, Wilson Ma, Jerome Malic, Magoo Valencia, Tony Varquez and Inna Vitasa of the Saturday Group will be on exhibit at Figaro, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center. Call 631-3061.

TAGLE AT NAVA. Serenity, abundance, God's provision are the central themes of every artwork of E.R. Tagle. An exponent of the "positivist" school of thought in Philippine painting, Tagle will showcase once more his works in the Galleria de Nava's inaugural exhibit on April 20. The exhibit is also in observance of the annual "Positive Thinking Week" (April 13-22) under President Corazon Aquino's Presidential Proclamation 712. The exhibit runs until April 30. Galleria de Nava is at the Adriatico Arms Hotel, corner Julio Nakpil and Adriatico Streets, Malate. Call 816-0904.

VISUAL ARTS

TWO ARTISTS AT WEST GALLERY. UK-based artist Ivee Olivares-Mellor and Piet C. Bolipata present "Of Landscapes and Paper Dolls II" until April 23 at the West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Ivee's landscapes are products of her memories of her home in Zambales. The show has touches of Chinese and Japanese art. Piet handles the mixed-media collages.

GROUP SHOW AT IVYDELL. A group exhibit featuring small drawings and paintings by some of the country's top and young artists will inaugurate Gallery Ivydell, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Vito Cruz Extension, Makati City. Paintings of mother and child, Philippine landscapes, fiestas, nudes, rural scenes, old churches, *bayanihan*, family unity and care for the environment by Beret Ollague, Solomon Saprid, Caloy Gabuco, Nards Zepeda, Mar Cempron, Mon Doplon, Jess Garcia, Romy Lacson, Rolly de Vera, Icel Felix, Cheryl Ng, Nanette Sinco, Robert Abog, Martha Atienza, Mark Celeste, Yosh Tamura, Nick Aranda, Ever Panuela, Bing Siochi and Domeng Labordo are among those included in the exhibit. Proceeds from the sale of

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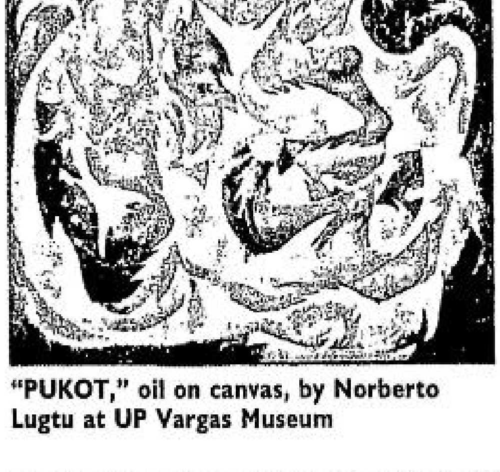
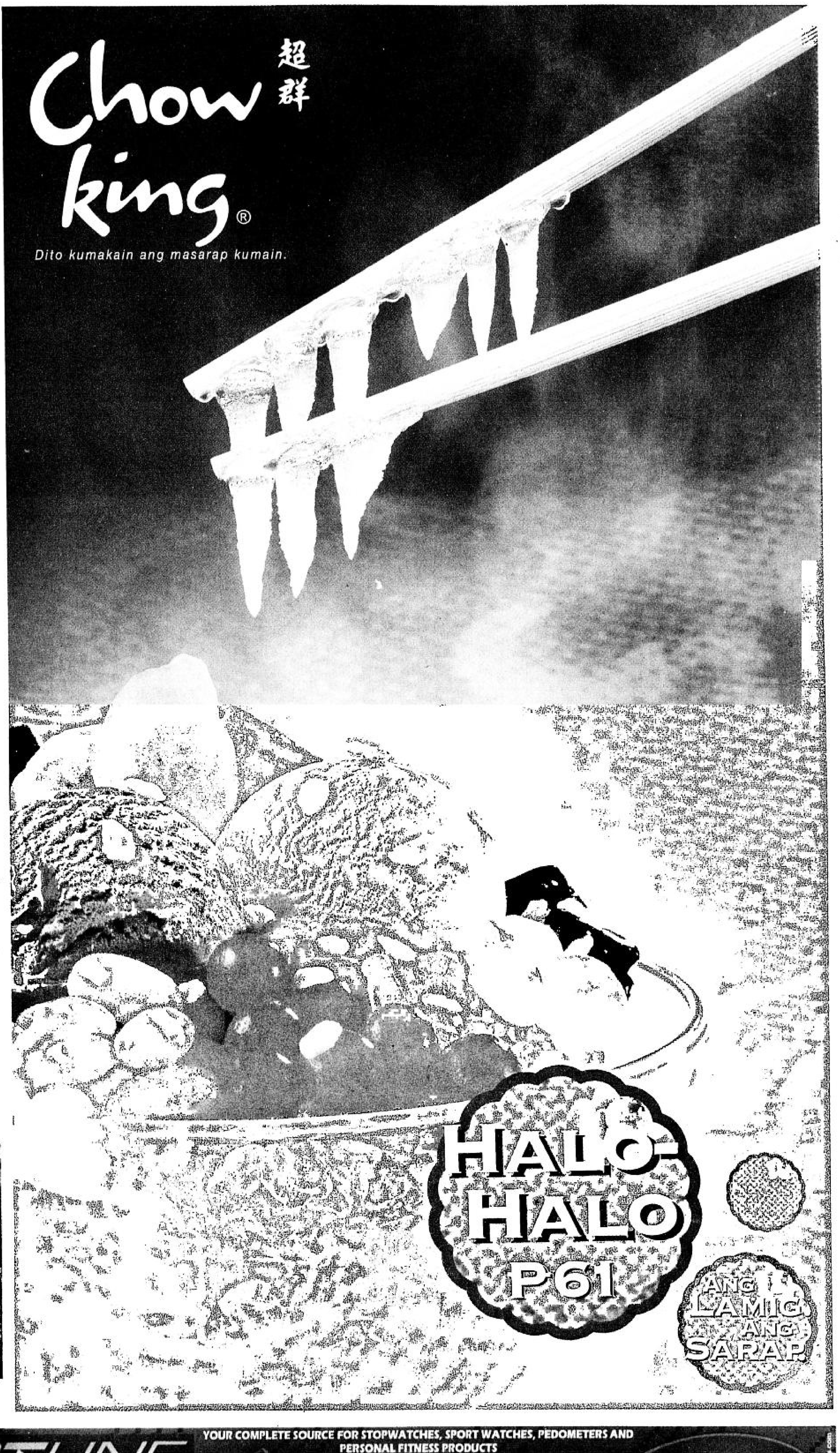


"PUKOT," oil on canvas, by Norberto Lugtu at UP Vargas Museum



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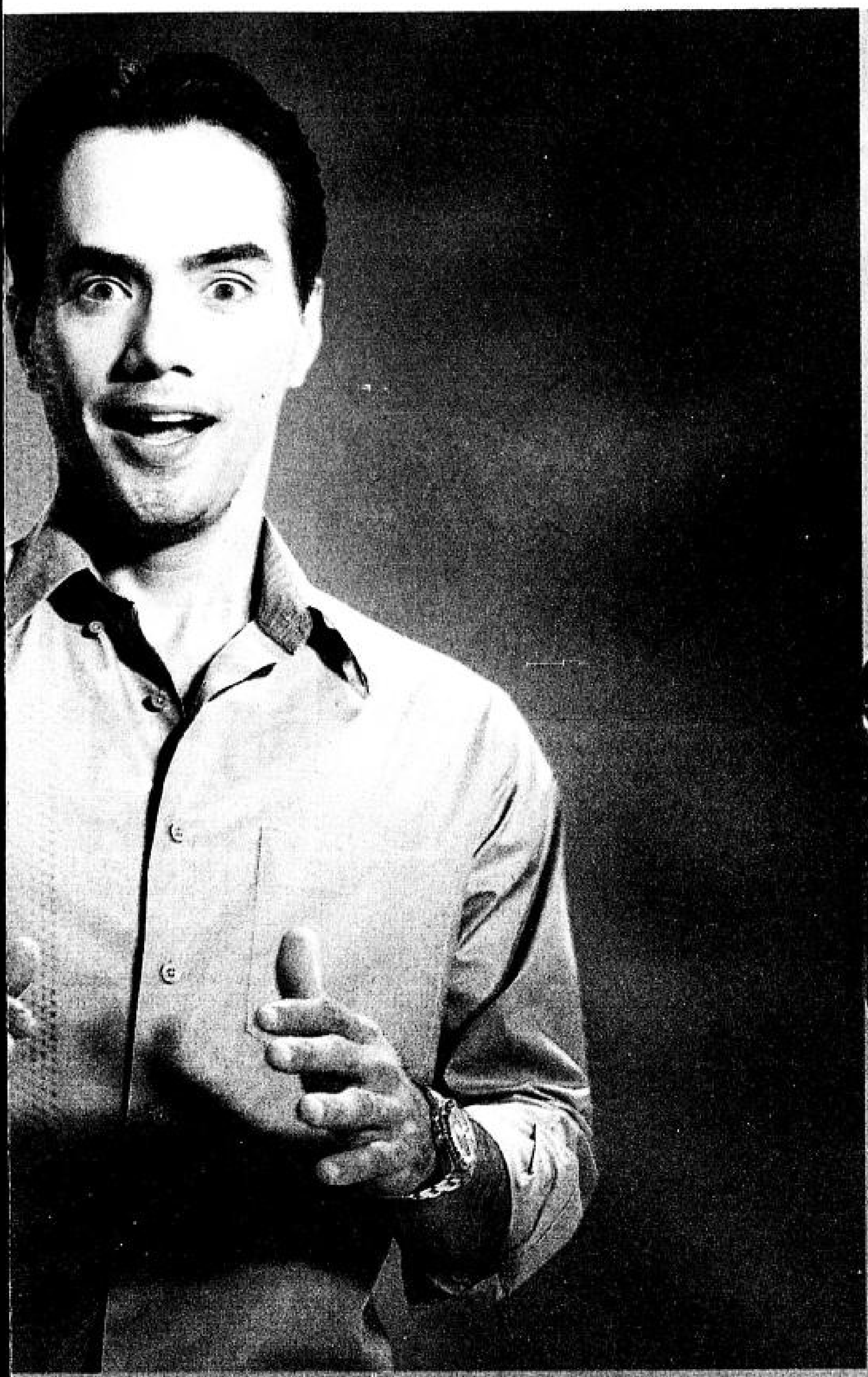

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Maningning Miclat's 'Soliloquy' unveiled

By Romulo P. Baquiran Jr.
Contributor

MANINGNING Miclat was a pretty girl who always seemed to stay as young as a teener. She was bubbly and loved to tell stories in her lilting voice. She was a very gentle person. Her guidance counselor at St. Theresa's College, Sister Trinitas, said she was a beautiful soul. She was a sensitive and generous friend. Many students who sat in at her fine arts classes at the Far Eastern University said she was a good teacher.

But behind the gestures of innocence was a person with profound awareness of the human condition. And it showed in the statement of her art. When she passed away in September 2000, her friends and relatives who loved her so much were shocked beyond belief.

A serious painter and writer, she was much admired. At a young age, her works had been exhibited in Manila, Baguio, Bangkok, Bandar Seri Begawan, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The prestigious grand prize award that she won from the Arts Association of the Philippines (AAP) through her painting, "Trouble in Paradise," could have been just one of the many she would have garnered if she had lived to a ripe age.

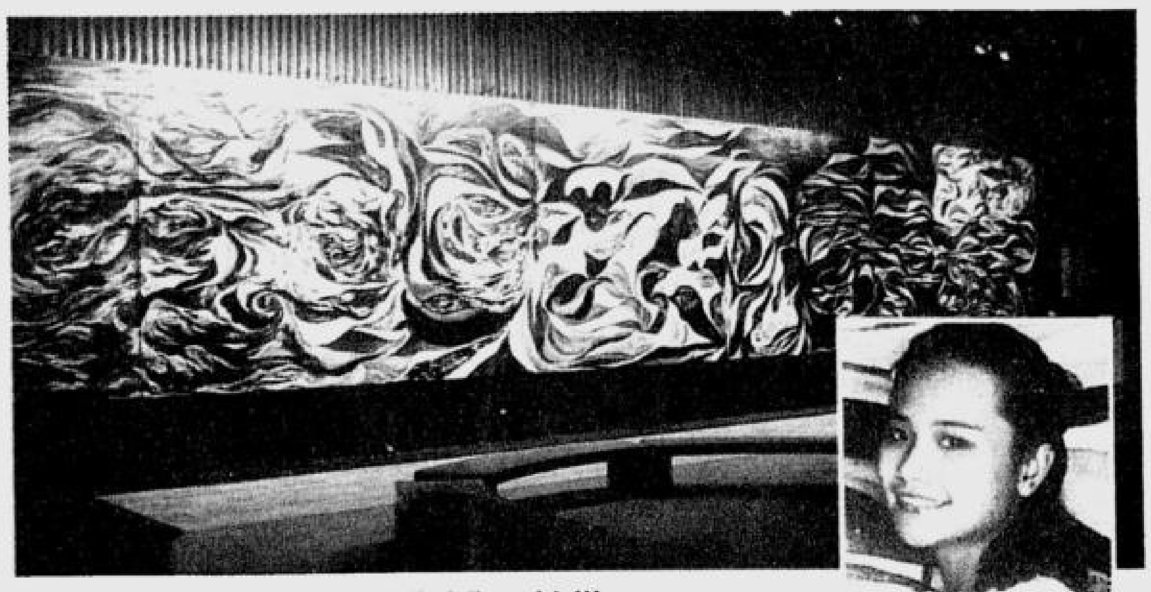
Yet young as she was, she already accomplished an artistic finesse that gave viewers of her works an incomparable aesthetic experience.

As a poet, she wrote beautifully in three languages, collected in her book "Voice from the Underworld." Poet Marjorie Evasco says: "... traversing... three languages, Maningning arrives at a firm grasp of the cross-cultural roots of her art." Indeed, she was a child of three cultures. And according to another poet, Aida F. Santos, a child of the revolution, i.e. the 1970s activist era.

Although Maningning is gone, her memory is kept alive by her parents, relatives and close friends. In fact, the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. (MMAFI) is established for the purpose of supporting talented young Filipino and/or Asian artists. MMAFI's board of directors includes Meynard A. Halili, Herman T. Gamboa, Alma C. Miclat, Leonardo M. Ramos, Joaquin Sy, Edna Z. Manlapaz, Mario I. Miclat, Marsha F. Miranda and James T. C. Na

Once again, viewers can have the chance to see one of Maningning's major works through the relaunching of the mural, "Soliloquy," in an exhibit titled "Paguwi/Pag-iiwi (Home Coming, Coming Home)" tomorrow at the CCP Main Gallery. For this event, which coincides with the celebration of the artist's 30th birthday, the black-and-white acrylic piece underwent painstaking and intensive preemptive conservation and restoration work by artists Aro Soriano and Rosario Galang. Thus, "Soliloquy" is literally reborn for us to admire in its former glory.

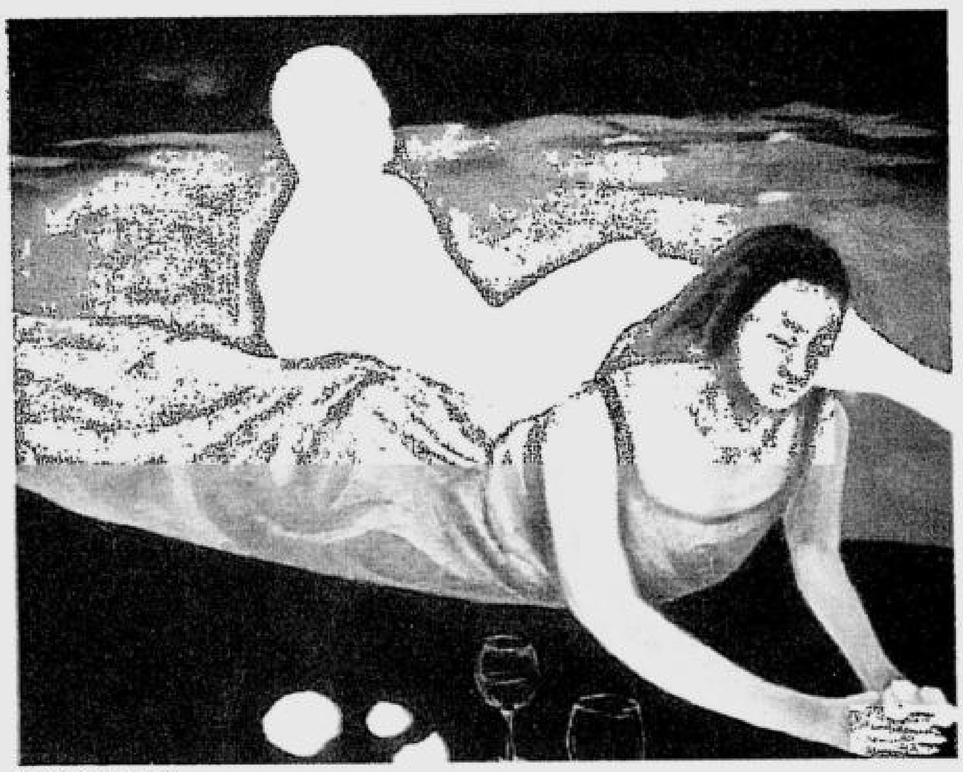
Curator Nestor Vinluan describes the mural as "a modern rendition of a traditional Chinese *xieyi* painting," "a gestural" and "expressionistic" work. He likens the piece, which depicts curvilinear forms in white, black and gray tonalities, to a symphonic composition. The mural itself is grandiose at 8'x44', composed of 11 panels. "What is fascinating in Maningning's 'Soliloquy' is that it sort of blends Oriental discipline with Western pure psychic automatism," the UP professor and Maningning's undergrad thesis adviser says.


MICLAT (inset) blended Oriental discipline with Western pure psychic automatism in her 1994 mural.

Drawn from the artist's nature, the piece reveals the state of her soul, a mingling of the object and subject—her inner world and herself. What viewers will see is a suggestive work, one with an unobtrusive intensity that will place them in a seemingly never-ending rhythm of white, black and gray.

MMAFI intends the event not only to commemorate the artist but to raise enough interest among patrons or institutions to buy the art work. As MMAFI executive director Alma C. Miclat says, "We plan to have a silent bidding to temporarily or permanently house the mural after its CCP exhibit, either by lease or outright sale. The proceeds will help fulfill the mission of the foundation." MMAFI will sponsor scholarships, literary or art prizes for young writers and artists "to promote creative programs for, and nurture... multitalented Asian, especially Filipino artists who are 28 years old and younger, as exemplified by Maningning Miclat."

Artists, art patrons and enthusiasts and the public are invited to attend the relaunch tomorrow, 6 p.m., at the CCP Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo. Call Alma Miclat at 816-7490, 812-4885 or (0918) 905-7311.


"NIGHTCAP"

Portraits of solitary beings

By Constantino C. Tejero

THERE was an air of bleakness about the nine pieces of oil on canvas in the recent exhibit "escapRism" in West Gallery at Artlane, 3/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The pieces are notable for their colorism, mostly dark-hued, sad faces with closed eyes, with highlights of orange or green on naked shoulders, arms, thighs. Even with patches of brilliant hues, or even in the brighter pictures, the solid application of color lends some heaviness to the canvas.

It was Rowena Bancod Gaborni's fifth solo exhibit. A fine arts graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, she has tried to explore the sensibility that creates art, and come up with these portraits of artists—solitary creatures who look alone even in human company

In "Camouflage I," done in orange, ochre and gold, a male ballet dancer leaps in a grand jeté over a patch of blue, one arm raised in a powerful gesture.

"Camouflage II" has another dancer, in white tank top and black tights, in a gesture of embrace, one arm greenish and another golden-hued. There are subliminal images in the background, of a face, thighs, arms and torso.

Artist as prisoner

"Captive" is a portrait of the artist as prisoner of her art. In a gesture of despair, a red-headed woman covers her face with her hand, as she sits in a green room with a low ceiling and a floor the color of rust, her twisted feet peeping from the hem of her long blue dress.

Two busts perch on pedestals, one of Camille Claudel and another of the wrapped head from a picture of Magritte. Standing in a corner is a greenish Greek pilaster with edges outlined with chartreuse. The congestion of figures heightens the sense of claustrophobia, so that the room resembles a prison cell and the woman looks as though she were about to be hauled to the guillotine.

"Nightcap" has a long-haired woman in a long orange dress reclining on the ground or a bed of black and brown, while behind her is a pale baldheaded male nude in profile. The couple, apparently after copulation, is foregrounded by two wineglasses and a greenish foodstuff that could be broken bread or split citrus fruit. The woman is holding a pink rose, magnolia or *adelfa*.

Here intimacy has been blurred or blotted as symbolized by the vagueness of the man's form and hinted at by the distance in the woman's facial expression. She could be thinking of her art, which comes between them. Even in the most intimate moment with another human being, art makes her want to be alone.

"Still Life" has another odalisque. The naked female form, with face hidden by long hair and body highlighted by green, orange and pink, is lying on a viridian ground with an apple-green pillow and a yellow book. In the background are two Greek columns, a violet boulder, against a violet sky.

Gaborni reveals the piece is supposed to be a portrait of an artist's model. Still as a sculpture, she blends well with the ancient ruins.

Artist as fugitive

"Escape" is the piece most obviously related to the exhibit's title. Here a beige-jacketed woman is in flight, a diagonal figure across the canvas, against green buildings, green cloud, green sky.

"Wind" has a brown woman in a viridian chemise, fluting, while sitting on a green slope, against a sky of chartreuse. She is surrounded by an aura of aquamarine.

"Moonlight Sonata" has another woman in white chemise, sitting on a slate-blue chair, playing a reddish-brown cello highlighted with orange, the bow and strings aquamarine. In a corner on the foreground is a white mug on a coffee table covered with beige cloth. The woman's naked limbs have been burnished into burnt orange by an invisible moon.

In "Impromptu," a green-skinned woman in viridian gown is playing a green violin against a background of green and brown. As audience, there's a vague figure of a naked man holding a long-stemmed rose. There are subliminal forms of another couple in the background.

The exhibit's title has the double meaning of "art as a way of escape" and "the artist as a person who flees from human company." Art is always done in contemplation and solitude, even in the midst of crowds. In the artist's world, other people vanish or recede into the background.

The human, the beastly and the Imeldific

From page E8

These are further illustrated with portions of the lyrics from the actual songs, infusing an ironical twist to the images conjured, which look as if they have been lifted from some picture books, which come complete with letter transfers. In fact, some of the pieces are literally derived from the titles themselves: we get the face of a ram in "Aries."

Payawal, who spends most of the year as an OFW in Jordan, has traveled to various places in the Middle East. Thus, he is represented with a series of self-portraits made in the course of his religious journey to Tel-Aviv. Titled "Phases in Tel-Aviv," the works, in the manner of line shot, reflect the shifting moods and modes of his sojourns to the embattled Israeli capital, with the shadow of war etched in the gradations of his visage.

The works of Joel Mendez, collectively called "Imelda" series, are portraits of the former first lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who, I gathered, has been a client of the painter who happens to be a practicing medical specialist in nonsurgical facial enhancement and weight management.

Motifs

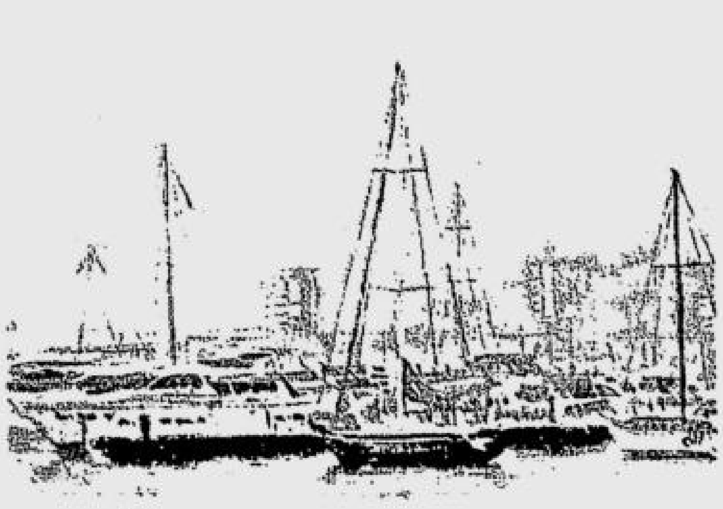
Her Imeldific, being the principal subject in these works, is shown in various periods of her life, from her first communion through her rise to power and the ouster of the Marcoses to the present where she continues to be the plaintiff in dozens of legal cases. Mendez has, of course, thrown in a number of symbolical motifs (like her famous concentric and star epigrams) to better unravel his subject to a variety of angles and moods, not to mention the necessity of injecting wry commentaries on the woman who, as she herself claims, is not yet done with history.

The largest work is a diptych of sorts, with the familiar IRM signature on the side, to accompany a life-size portrait, with the subject further represented in another section of the panel, which resembles a giant beehive, with stark images of the metamorphosis of the political animal who, despite the many changes in our body-politic, still wields an incredibly cult-like influence among her followers.

Indeed, true to form, the Imeldific, being the show's guest of honor, literacy scooped up all Mendez's works. With a mere flex of her bejeweled finger, she left nothing to her equally well-heeled companions who were aghast at this familiar display of excess. To this account of her fabulous spending binge, I could only gasp in disbelief while mumbling, "*Hayop talaga!*"

E-mail the author at gdormiendo @yahoo.com

JOEL Mendez with his Warholian Imeldifics


"Isang mapayapang hapon," Watercolor, 14.5"x10.5"

NIK Masangcay Jr. is an ex-Saudi Arabia advertising artist/designer. But the tug of family strings proved stronger to Nik than the lure of the Saudi riyal. From this well of homesickness sprang his inspiration for his Mother and Child theme. A native of Aklan, his longing for home motivated him to paint fondly remembered Philippine landscapes and seascapes as well as various versions of the rapidly vanishing *bahay kubo* that dot the countryside. He is the former art director of Sunstar Horizons travel magazine, an awarded advertising artist/visualizer, and is now working as freelance graphic designer as well as part-time visual artist for a top advertising agency. He is an active member and co-founder of The Aquarellists, a group of contemporary watercolorists. His first solo, "Munting Simula," will open on April 20 at the Silahis Arts and Artifacts Gallery (3/F Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City).

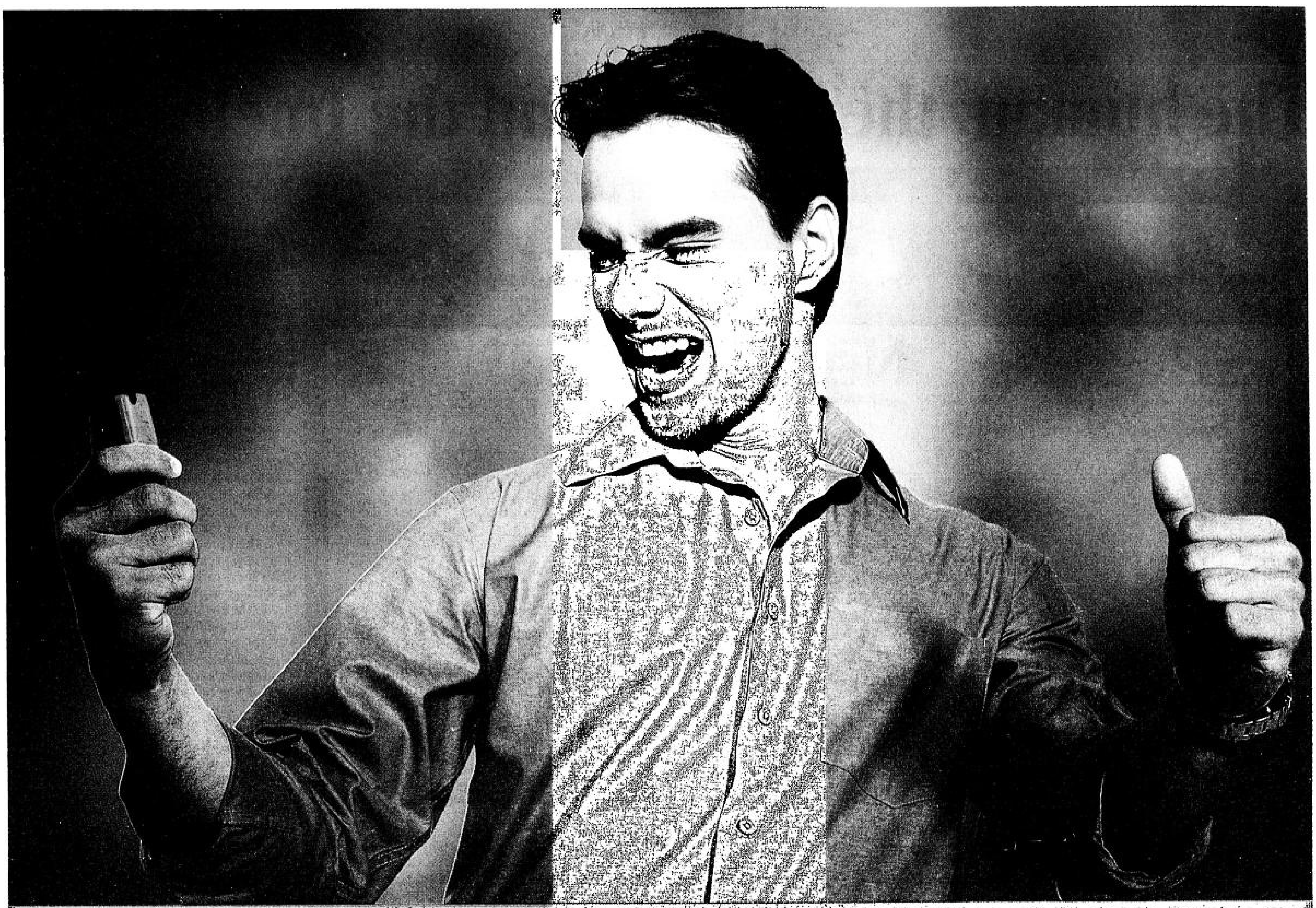
PROF. Antonio Austria and Lyne Alano Abanilla of the Manila Bulletin cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the "Four Distinct Voices" exhibit at Le Soufflé restaurant in Pasig City April 5. Four women artists, Eve Red Buhay, Myrna David, Anjing Mariano and Didith Robbillo van der Lindem, reveal their experiences, inspirations and dreams in the works featured in the exhibit, which ends May 5.

Commissioned . . .

From page E3

the artworks will benefit street children who have been attending free art workshops conducted by Tagle and his artist-friends.
Call 816-0904 or (0917) 972-6223.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS. The Green Door, an independent communications, events and talent management company, is inviting everyone to join their two summer workshops this year. "Basic Acting for Film and Television," to be conducted by noted theater and film actress Connie Chua, begins April 15, while "Basic Scriptwriting for Film and Television," to be managed by multiaward-winning screenwriter Ricky Lee, begins April 20. Call Ben (0919) 325-5633, or Timi (0917) 409-5051. The Green Door is at the 3/L Francisco Gold Condominium 1, 784 Edsa, near Kamias Road, QC.



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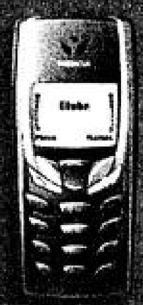
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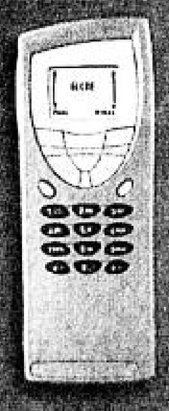
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Nokia 3310	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	5,490	5,190	4,840	4,390	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	5,790	5,490	5,140	4,690	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD75	6,600	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	7,690	7,390	7,040	6,590	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3350	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	8,090	7,790	7,440	6,990	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 5210	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	—	—	—	—	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	6,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens ME45	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	3,500	FREE	—	—	—	—	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	9,500	8,500	6,500	5,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	FREE
Siemens SL45	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	6,500	2,500	—	—	—	—	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	12,500	11,500	9,500	8,500	7,500	5,500	4,000	2,000
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500
Nokia 8855	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	17,000	13,500	9,500	—	—	—	—	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	19,500	18,500	16,500	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,000	9,000
Ericsson T68	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	17,000	13,500	9,500	—	—	—	—	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	19,500	18,500	16,500	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,000	9,000
Nokia 9210	35,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	29,000	25,500	21,500	—	—	—	—	35,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	31,500	30,500	28,500	27,500	26,500	24,500	23,000	21,000

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HANDYPHONE

The human, the beastly and the Imeldific

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

GALLERYGOERS are bound to have a field day sorting out odds and ends of the show mounted by the Tres Acidos at the Art Center of SM Megamall.

Called "Animal," the show (until April 21), from the original three members (Joel Mendez, Ronald Ventura and Kiko Escora) as well as two new recruits (Andres Barrioquinto and Butch Payawal), has elicited mixed reactions ranging from awe and revulsion to sheer disgust from an audience yet unaccustomed to seeing (male) nudity and the Freudian depiction of gender. Not to mention an entire wall devoted to the subject of Imelda Romualdez Marcos captured in a grimy, Warholian manner.

Admittedly, though, most discerning gallerygoers are likely to have kept pace with avant-garde artists like Ventura and Escora, with their proud and livid nudes, conceived from new angles of attack, and reveling in the folds and escarpments of the body beautiful—or misshapen and grotesque, as the case may be. In their worlds, unlike those of Mendez and Barrioquinto, the body in its naked glory can serve a purpose other than the merely erotic, male or female, and can help achieve the same ecstatic bliss as it was in the glory days of Greece and Rome.

Fine bodies

Ventura's works evolve the progeny of finely delineated bodies inspired by mythological character with distinctly Oriental, even picture-friendly, Pinoy features, such as riding horses, standing beside ornately designed doors or simply adrift in space. In "Faith," his largest piece in the show, man and beast are captured in motion, both bereft of heads, while a smaller equine image on top of it shows the body of a horse and the face of a human, an allusion to the Centaur of Greek myths.

It will be recalled that Ventura has, in a previous show, incorporated the image of doors in his nudes in the manner of a diptych, presumably as a way of teasing the viewer to open up and throw caution to the wind. The artist's surreal sense and sensibility have enhanced the play between the real and the surreal, the figurative and abstract, where no grim divisions are imposed, and the Pirandellian spirit is proudly aloft.

Escora, on the other hand, strives for purity of image, a minimalist who simply delivers his punch lines, as it were, with the bare essentials. Represented with nine works, Escora plays up the grotesque in such pieces as "The Hunger," where the image is of a face dripping with blood, and "Crispyret," which shows a cropped face in the act of biting an apple, and "Piece of Meat 2," showing a faceless body with a mask bearing the sign "No. 2."

In "Carcass," we see a large animal carcass hanging, its internal parts fully exposed to the viewer, like the mutilated human body. In "Heel Kisser," Escora plays up the theme of Buñuelian fetishism, with the image of a tongue stuck out and about to lick a stiletto heel.

Barrioquinto, with his surrealist persuasion, has an entire wall with motley faces of characters inspired by the songs of Morrissey, The Smiths, Jeff Buckley and Nine Inch Nails.

THE HUMAN/ p.E6

RONALD Ventura and "Faith"

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CONSOLATION PRIZE: (20) Nintendo Game Boy Advance w/ light accessory

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KIDDIE TOY SNATCH WINNERS

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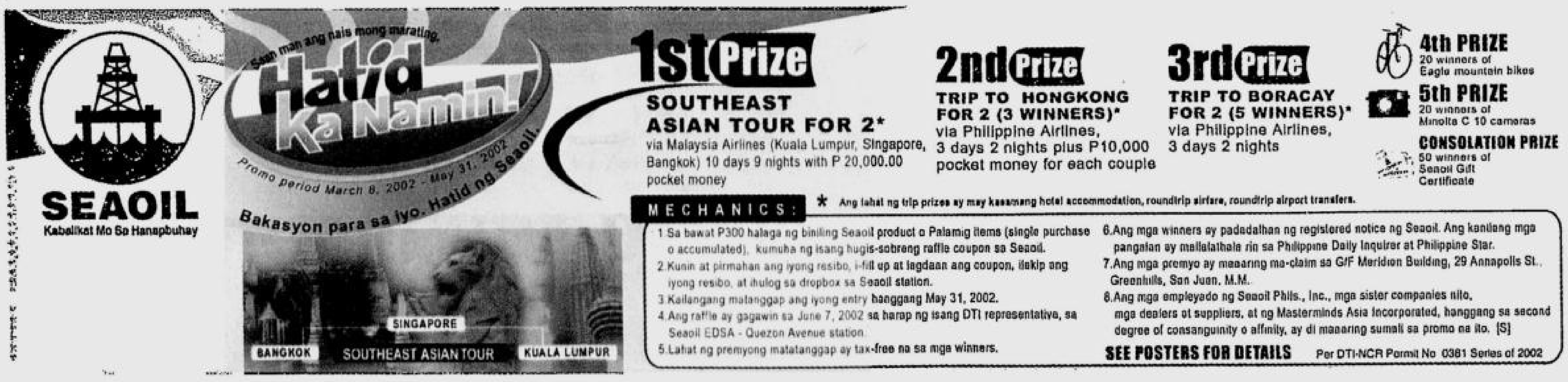
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4. Ang raffle ay gagawin sa June 7, 2002 sa harap ng isang DTI representative, sa Seaoil EDSA - Quezon Avenue station.
5. Lahat ng premyong matatanggap ay tax-free na sa mga winners.
6. Ang mga winners ay padadalhan ng registered notice ng Seaoil. Ang kanilang mga pangalan ay mailalathala rin sa Philippine Daily Inquirer at Philippine Star.
7. Ang mga premyo ay maaaring ma-claim sa G/F Meridien Building, 29 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
8. Ang mga empleyado ng Seaoil Phils., Inc., mga sister companies nito, mga dealers at suppliers, at ng Masterminds Asia Incorporated, hanggang sa second degree of consanguinity o affinity, ay di maaaring sumali sa promo na ito. [S]

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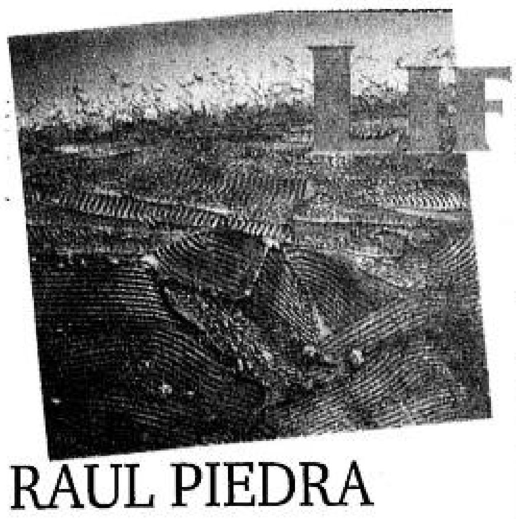

"PALAWI I"

RAUL PIEDRA

On hallowed ground

By Johnathan Libarios Rondina
Contributor

WHEN asked to comment on the works of renowned abstractionist Jackson Pollock, the sculptor Ruben Kadish said, "It's not so much what you are looking at but what's happening to you while you are looking at his particular work."

One cannot help but make the same observation after viewing Filipino abstractionist Raul Piedra's new works in acrylic mixed media. Quite likely, this is what will happen to any viewer who finds himself within the trajectory of Piedra's art: first, at the moment of initial eye contact, he will be pained by the visual assault, not from any lack of aesthetic but by the sheer force and audacity of the artist's bold colors and textures; and then, once the initial shock subsides, the viewer will most certainly develop a profound respect for the artist's masterful skill at abstract composition.

In "Gabon," Piedra's 30th one-man show, the artist known for his thick impastos enters both familiar territory and hallowed ground. Here, he draws inspiration from, and pays homage to, Pampanga's lahar-ravaged landscapes and comes up with a body of work that is part eulogy and part celebration.

"Porac," "Palawi," "Cabalantian" and "Maliwalu" are all equally compelling works that depict metaphysical terrains; neither here, there nor specifically anywhere, Piedra's landscapes seem to depict the cataclysmic fusion of the elements. Yet, somehow, the blue-green and red-orange hues coupled with the thick, windswept globules of lahar sand hovering over the troweled terraces, and the combined movement of these patterns echo serene tones that mimic the calm after each storm, serving as portents of things undiscovered but reborn.

"A painting," Pollock himself once said, "has a life of its own." If so, then one can only imagine how violent that moment can be when a work takes its first breath, stubbornly resisting the artist's

ON HALLOWED/ p.F3

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Of French farewell and Pakistani curry

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

JAIME Laya

IT really felt like a month of farewells with French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui** also bidding the country *au revoir*. As only the French can carry it off, it was a glittering evening with colleagues from the diplomatic corps, such as Australian Ambassador **John Buckley** (who has since left), Danish Ambassador **Peter** and **Birgitta Rosting** (also leaving), Norwegian Ambassador **Ulf** and **Lena Hakansson**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and **Clara Colesanti**, Belgian Ambassador **Roland** and **Sylvia Remoortele** (soon to leave), and friends from the Filipino community, like former Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**, **Olivia** and **Bobby Romulo**, **Jaime Laya**, **Tessie Luz**, **Anton Juan**, **Paz Yuchengco** and formidable PCGG chair (pity she wasn't the chair from the start) **Haydee Yorac** gracing the reception.

Ambassador Chouraqui was awarded a plaque of recognition for his varied contributions to Franco-Philippine relations by the World Affairs Forum Inc. The citation was made by Foreign Undersecretary **Lauro Baja**. Ambassador Chouraqui will probably be best remembered for initiating the festival French Spring in Manila. He looks forward to his new post as permanent representative of France to the Council of Europe at Strasbourg with the rank of ambassador. Good luck and Godspeed, Mr. Ambassador.

* * *

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mme. **Hasan Sarmad** celebrated Pakistan Day with a reception at the Skytop of the Inter-Con March 25. In attendance were lots of well-wishers from the diplomatic corps and the Filipino business community, who always take the opportunity to enjoy the curries and other delicacies of Pakistani cuisine on these occasions, aside, of course, from congratulating their hosts.

New faces were evident with Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma** and Vietnamese Ambassador and Mme. **Nguyen Thac Dinh**. We saw Italian Ambassador Colesanti and his wife Clara with the fabulous taste in jewelry. They had graciously offered their residence for a performance of upcoming musical talents sponsored by Friends of Cultural Concerns of the Philippines this coming May.

OFFRENCH/p.F3

FORMER foreign secretary Roberto Romulo and former ambassador Isabel Wilson

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac and French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

MME. Birgitta Rosting, Mme. Lena Hakansson, Australian Ambassador John Buckley, Danish Ambassador Peter Rosting

BELGIAN Ambassador and Mme. Roland Remoortele, and Ambassador Chouraqui

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

PAKISTAN Ambassador and Mme. Hasan Sarmad

AMBASSADOR and Mme. Sarmad greeting Italian Ambassador and Mme. Umberto Colesanti.

BETH Day Romulo, Mme. Susanne Baughman of Switzerland, Piiyu Anttola of Finland, Mme. Myriam Ara of Japan and Mme. Herbert Jess of Germany

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GERMAN Ambassador Herbert Jess and Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Rezk

Of French farewell . . .

JAPANESE Ambassador Yoshihisa Ara and Nigerian Ambassador Chief Ray O.O. Inije

From page F2

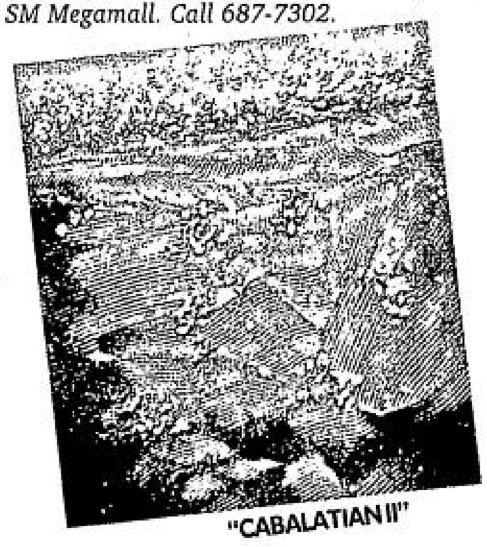
There was also the legendary **Narda Camacho** of Balikatan who is sponsoring a benefit for her recycling program with the help of the spouses of diplomats and some of the ambassadors themselves performing musical numbers in the middle of the month. Turkish Ambassador **Veka Inal** and Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** made a glamorous pair and we were glad to see Ambassador **Enrique Syquia** up and about since his illness.

On hallowed ground

From page F1

paternal intentions. Of late, Piedra, whose stocky built can easily have him mistaken for a seasoned pugilist, seems battle-weary, sore with tendonitis from the sheer physical exhaustion of wrestling with his broad canvases day in and day out. But, one needs only to experience "Gabon" to see both Piedra and his art sharing the limelight of artistic triumph.

"Gabon" runs April 20-28 at Gallery Nine, SM Megamall. Call 687-7302.



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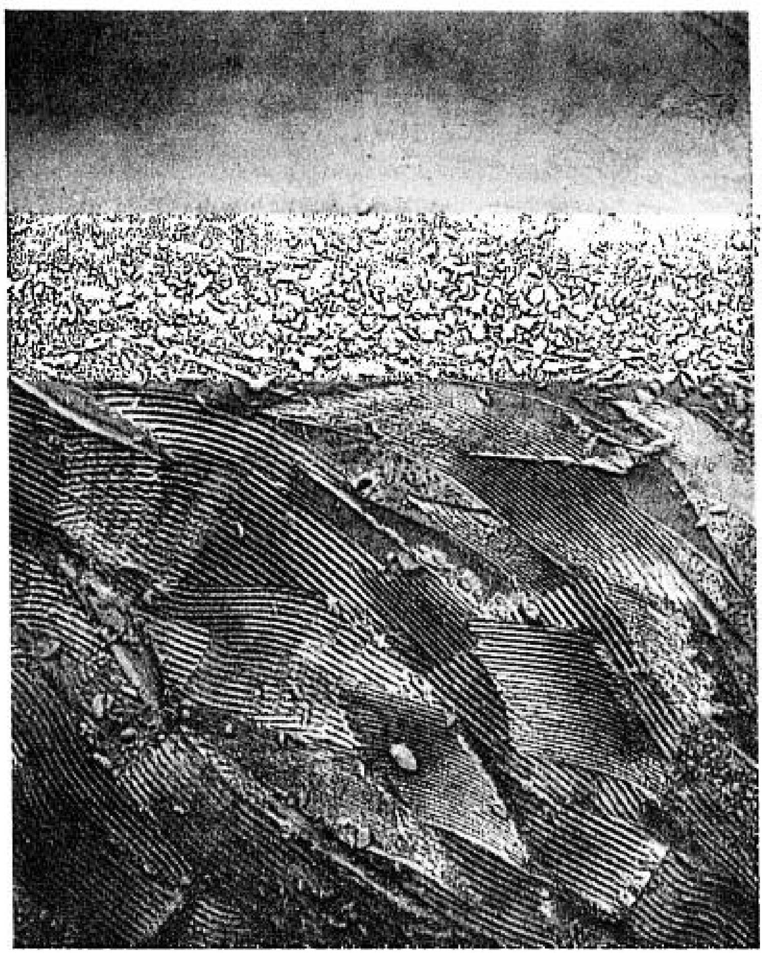

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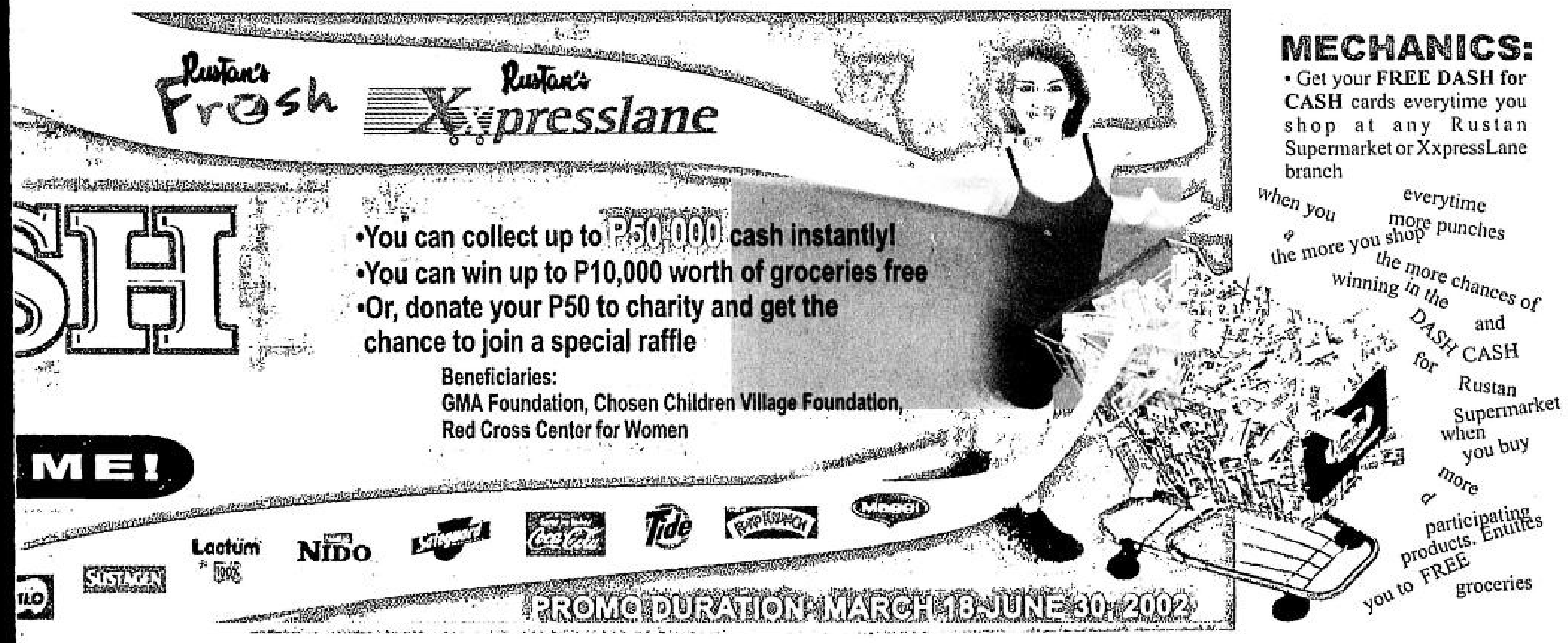

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SEE POSTER FOR DETAILS

Hell as vacation

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

REVIEW

PRAY that amid the sweltering, sizzling heat of this summer, you don't suffer a vacation like this.

Except that this particular stressful R&R, which ends up harassing the main characters instead of giving them their needed break, takes place during the cold of winter.

Somewhere in a little village between France and Germany, an obscure but chaotic festival is being celebrated in honor of one St. Wolfgang. Anxious to bring in the crowds and their welcome payment, the young, inexperienced, but very eager manager, Heinz (Arnel Carrion), overbooks his crowded, dingy and very old motel. It doesn't matter that 12 of his guests are hospitalized for food poisoning. Or that the pipes are leaking. Or even that his trusted handyman-cum-second-in-command Karak (Miguel Faustmann) spends more time drinking booze than making repairs, and sprawling on the beds instead of tidying them.

Zeal, desperation and downright neglect combine to cramp the little motel with "A Bedfull of Foreigners."

Strength

The strength of writer David Freeman's material lies in the way it tries to play off one expat traveler's idiosyncracy against another's. In this case, two Britons—regular, likeable guy Stanley Parker (Michael Williams, alternated by Noel Rayos) and pompous, pretentious snob Claude Philby (Jeremy Domingo)—run a romantic merry-go-round of mistaken identities with Philby's strict, domineering German haus frau, Helga (Liesl Batucan), and the sultry, naughty French cabaret dancer Simone (Ana Abad Santos-Bitong).

Swept by the spinning events are Stanley's cool wife Brenda (Anna Liza Zialcita) and a never-seen famous lady cycling champion whose patronage and endorsement Heinz craves to draw in more customers.

The whole problem begins when Heinz and Karak unknowingly book Stanley and Claude in the same bedroom. That the two gentlemen arrive during different times, and their wives come in also on different occasions, adds to the confusion. To say anything more would be to give away the multiple plot convolutions and the twisted surprises that the playwright keeps throwing into the mix. Freeman actually does a good job at it, spinning off one absurd adventure after another, like the firecrackers in St. Wolfgang's Festival careening off from one end of the village to the other.

MICHAEL Williams deliver a competent performance.

NOEL Rayos alternates with Williams.

With tongue in cheek, he pokes slyly at the racial and cultural stereotypes the audience has come to expect. The supposedly frigid, cold German lady who prefers to play cards with her hubby during their intimate moment than you-know-what ends up wandering naked in the snow. Of course, Freeman has the Swiss manager, who appears to be ambiguously French, court the British wife right under the nose of her very proper husband.

Contrived

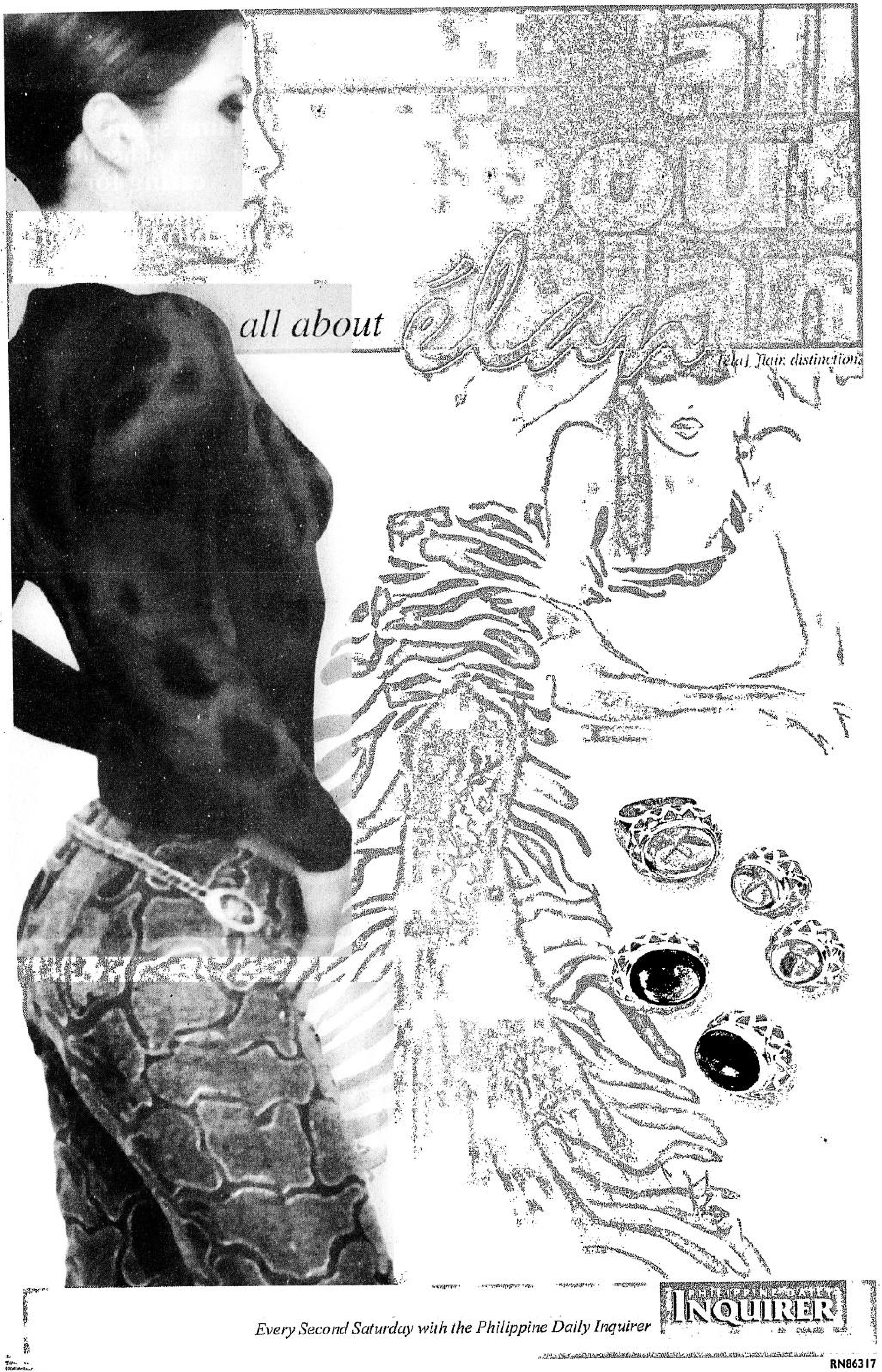
From start to end, Freeman keeps on trying to outdo himself, like a magician pulling out one rabbit after another from his hat. The only minor hitch is that he doesn't know how and when to stop. The twist ending appears contrived, a hastily tacked-on climax to make sure that the roller-coaster ride doesn't slow down to a crawl but finishes with a flash.

It helps a lot that director Zeneida Amador cast his reliable stable of actors according to type. It's not the first time that Batucan has played an iron bitch, Bitong an attractive airhead, Domingo the high-handed aristocrat, or Williams the lovable underdog. Sometimes, seeing these same actors play the same type of role over and over again can be tiring, their expected approach to a character even making the play appear predictable.

In "Bedfull of Foreigners," though, the characters use this stereotyping to their advantage, pushing the boundaries to create absurd perfection. The men deliver competent performances, but it's the ladies, especially Santos-Bitong and Batucan, who take the top prize. Bitong's Simone coos and pauses her stilted, awkward French at the right moments—and her incredulous silence hits harder than the verbal punchline. Batucan gives new meaning to the phrase "small but terrible." Pushed to the limit, the jilted, outraged Helga transforms into an angry Nazi war machine that can obliterate the next unsuspecting, hapless male creature.

"Bedfull" breezes by in a fast two hours. It can be a light, whimsical way to start a long hot summer.

Repertory Philippines' production of "A Bedfull of Foreigners," written by Dave Freeman and directed by Zeneida Amador, runs until April 28. Call 633-4821-25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LIFESTYL

Books

Ravens forevermore

Ravens in Love
Edited by Larry Francia
Anvil Publishing

By Armando D. Manalo
Contributor

RAVENS in Love" was intended for the Valentine's Day trade. But at this late date, that is no matter. Like the emotion of love itself, which occurs at any time of the year, this book is independent of mere temporal considerations.

REVIEW

The opening essays by the late Pacifico N. Aprieto make an effort to sound the themes of the book—mother love, romantic love and even, literally, puppy love. But the other contributors refuse to be bound by Aprieto's categories. Adrian Cristobal's "Visitation in Venice" is about lust among the aging. Rony Diaz, in a fragment from a work in progress, evokes the sweetness of young love remembered. Larry Francia believes friendship can be—and is frequently—an aspect of love. Virginia Moreno, viewing the body of a woman preserved forever in volcanic ash, wonders whether she was in the act of love when rudely interrupted by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Out of the ordinary

Two of the contributions are out of the ordinary. Morli Dharam's "A Bright Young Moon" speaks of a love that, until recently, dared not speak of its name. It's the love of a young

RAVENS/ p.G4

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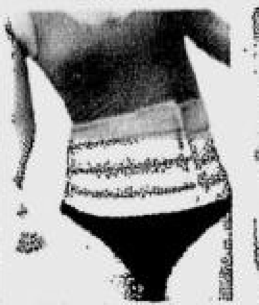

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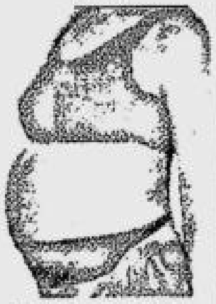

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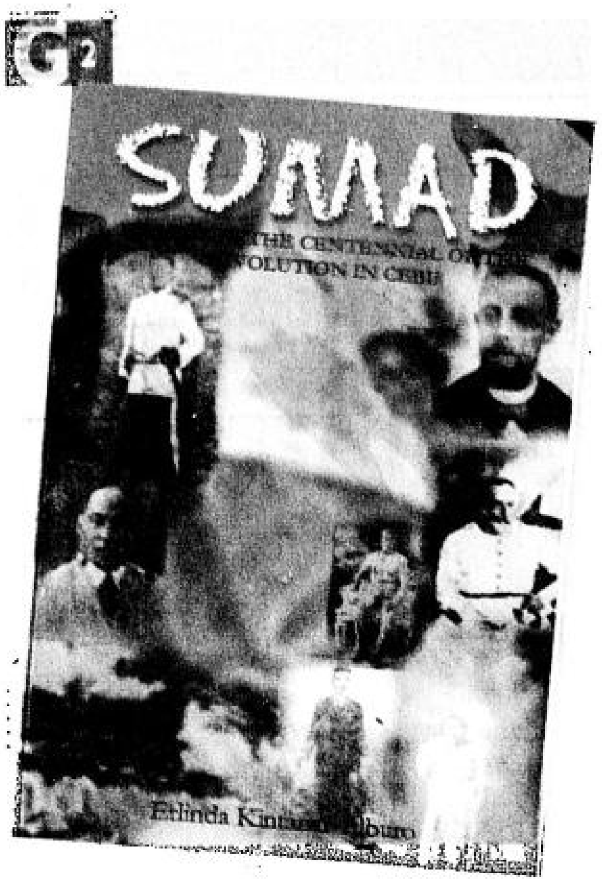

Cebu's heroes: From sword to pen

Sumad
By Erlinda Kintanar Alburo
De La Salle University Press
2001, 182 pages

By Christine Godinez-Ortega

ERLINDA Kintanar Alburo's first book, "Sumad" (the title is a Cebuano word meaning "anniversary"), matches the renowned Resil B. Mojares' works on Cebu's history. "Sumad" brings to life Cebuano heroes during the Spanish and American periods.

REVIEW

Scholars would be pleased especially with the book's chronology of events, a list of the author's original sources and the essays showing the researcher at work. But this book is clearly for the layman because the author wrote the essays for a weekly column, Déjà vu, in the Sun.Star Weekend magazine under the pseudonym Ybarra.

"Sumad" has tidbits as well of Cebu's important personalities who did their share in making this Visayan island the cultural and business hub it is today, never mind if its history up to the early 1900s revealed a machismo culture.

Parts of the book that dwell on heroes and places and on other fronts in the struggle against Spain require historians to sift fact from fiction. For instance, the book corrects the erroneous heroic death in battle of the lightning general, Pantaleon Villegas a.k.a. Leon Kilat, found in O.D. Corpuz's "Roots of the Nation."

Alburo emphasizes that every Cebuano "knows by heart" that Leon Kilat was "ignominiously stabbed in his sleep," his charms apparently failing him. Yet his bravura in battle and his physical skills endeared him to many to the extent that a townmate from Bacong, Negros Oriental, in an interview in 1950, swore that he saw Leon Kilat "take off riding on a handkerchief spread out in the sea."

Straightforward

The author's straightforward openings express outright the themes of the essays. "The Cebu Carnival and Its Queens" opens with the paragraph, "Cebuanos didn't have the Sinulog parade before the war. They had something many of us have only heard of: the *karnabal.*"

And if her essays begin with a clear-cut intention, her conclusions require more reflection. In "Fighting a Civilized War," the author reminds us of the "refrain from the pacification campaign," sung to the tune of "Tramp, tramp, tramp": "Damn, damn, damn, the Filipinos,/Pock-marked *kodiac ladrones*,/Underneath the starry flag/Civilize him with a *krag*/And return us to our own beloved home."

Most of the essays humanize the Pulahanes (from the band of *kundiman* red cloth), Cebu's Katipuneros, and other heroes—Bonifacio Aranas, Juan Climaco, Pantaleon del Rosario, Luis Flores, Nicolas Godines, Mateo Luga, Arcadio Maxilom, Alejo Minoza and Emilio Verdeflor, to mention a few.

On a similar vein, "Appropriating the Heroes in Pre-War Cebu" shows the linguistic skills of Cebuanos in their views of Rizal, Mabini, Del Pilar and Bonifacio, through their metaphors, similes, hyperboles and clichés. And a few essays end our romantic notions of some historical personalities.

Take some eye-opening information on our national hero, Jose Rizal's widow Josephine Bracken who, after Rizal's death, married a Cebuano mestizo, Vicente Abad, with whom she had a daughter named Dolores.

Rizal's widow

Filipinos would be intrigued to know of Josephine Bracken's contribution to the revolutionary cause with Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's "grudging" consent; of the suggestion that she did not really have an idyllic life with Rizal in Dapitan; and, of her "quaint" English in spite of the fact that she was a tutor in English to 15 pupils, among them the young Sergio Osmeña.

Here's a sampler from Bracken's letter to Rizal as quoted by Kintanar Alburo in the essay "La Dulce Estranjera," and which was read in the movie "Jose Rizal": "Love, I will love you ever, love, I will leave thee never, ever to me precious to thee, never to part, heart bound to heart, or never to say goodbye."

Religion played a strong influence on the lives of Cebuanos. But they didn't forget to have fun, as gleaned from the carnivals of Cebu and their fiestas that occasioned the performances of the *linambay*. Most charming are the recreation of a bygone era in "Funlore 1500," and the recipe and steps in cooking Argao town's *torta* (cake) in "Like *tuba* for Argao *torta*" after the narrative technique popularized by Laura Esquivel in her novel "Like Water for Chocolate."

After two revolutions up to the era called Peacetime, Cebu's illustrious sons who fought on, shifting their struggle for freedom from sword to pen, are featured. Some who became renowned politicians, such as Miguel Cuenco, Vicente Sotto, Florentino Tecson, Sergio Osmeña, Vicente Rama and Nicolas Rafols, were creative writers and journalists first. Their poetry and fiction published in their own newspapers like Ang Suga, Bag-ong Kusog and The Freeman provided the atmosphere which spurred the growth of Cebuano writings to this day.

In this sense, therefore, the book's title becomes its own metaphor.

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Architecture Asia mag

THE FIRST quarterly edition of Architecture was launched across Asia this week to showcase great Asian architecture.

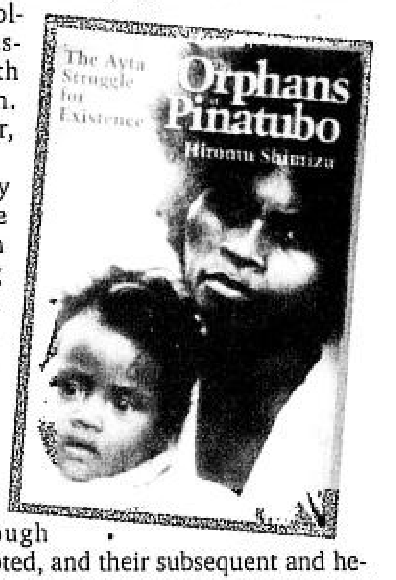
BCI Asia, the pan-Asian construction information group, is backing the relaunched journal with its distribution network and management experience relating to several European architectural magazines.

Architecture Asia is published by the Malaysian Institute of Architects on behalf of the Architects Regional Council of Asia with BCI Asia. First published in 1992 as an annual journal, the inaugural editor Jimmy Lim described the magazine as "transcending national boundaries to highlight the works and views of Asian architects."

The current edition of Architecture Asia demonstrates the diversity of Asian architecture from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. The articles reveal changing lifestyles in these countries and evolving architectural trends.

New book on Pinatubo survivors

RELEASED recently is "The Orphans of Pinatubo," the story of the survivors of the Pinatubo eruption in 1991. Written by Japanese anthropologist Hiromu Shimizu, the book recounts the ordeal of the Aytas, who used to live in the environs of the volcano and how they escaped imminent death during the eruption. Many of them, however, were unable to flee.



But more than a story of the eruption, the book also documents in English and Tagalog the struggle for survival in a ravaged environment. In this landmark study by one of the leading cultural anthropologists in Southeast Asia, the Aytas reveal the trauma they went through when the volcano erupted, and their subsequent and heroic efforts to regain peace and normalcy in their lives. In personal interviews, they also illustrate how their minds have been improved and how they have changed from their traditional timidity into a very courageous stance.

Shimizu has been studying the Aytas for more than two decades and has also studied other Philippine ethnic groups. He obtained his doctorate in cultural anthropology from University of Tokyo in 1987 and had research and teaching experience at Harvard University, Ateneo de Manila University and Beijing University of Foreign Studies. He has written extensively on politics and culture. At present, he is a professor in the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan.

The book is available at the Solidaridad Bookstore. Call 523-0870 or 525-5038.

Journalist's biography to be launched

ANVIL Publishing Inc. will launch "Armando J. Malay: The Life and Times of a Filipino Journalist and Activist" on April 22, 4:30 p.m., at the UP Executive House, Diliman, QC. The story of this much-admired former dean of student affairs of the UP was written by veteran journalists Maritess N. Sison and Yvonne Chua.

The biography was based on Malay's own detailed memoirs and countless interviews with family, friends and colleagues. The prodigious notes of the feisty journalist, educator and activist called "The Rushing Years" contain many vignettes, which capture the highlights of Philippine history from the 1940s to the 1990s. It was in the '70s, during the martial law period, that his courage and integrity was put to the harshest test. Malay was among the thousands detained by the Marcos regime.

Of his detention, he writes, "I would have been ashamed if Marcos, who is a fellow Upsilonian, had exempted me from the case. It was happening all over the country, why should I be an exception? I am glad that Marcos made no exemption. We were all imprisoned for writing what was seen as subversive journalism."

Authors Sison and Chua are seasoned and award-winning media practitioners. Sison is the Manila correspondent for the New York-based World Press magazine and the Inter Press Service, and is the Manila editorial coordinator for the US-based Filipinas Magazine. Chua is training director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and is also part-time journalism professor at the UP. Both of them have won awards in the Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism.

Luciano Carlos holds acting workshop

VETERAN director Luciano "Chaning" Carlos of the Directors Guild of the Phils. will hold his first acting workshop for film and television this summer under the sponsorship of the Music and Performing Arts Society of the Philippines, a sociocultural organization promoting Filipino culture and the arts.

Carlos is one of the country's veteran filmmakers, behind such classics as Mars Ravelo's "Facifica Falayfay" and Lino Brocka's "Arizona Kid." He blossomed as a director in the early 1960s under Sampaguita Pictures. He founded RVQ Productions together with the comedy king Dolphy in the late 1960s, and Regal Films with Mother Lily in the early '70s through his box-office films. In 1975, he directed the first team-up of Christopher de Leon and Nora Aunor in the film "Bato-bato sa Langit." He has directed a total of 115 films as of 1996.

The workshop will start on April 20 and will be conducted for five consecutive weekends (Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.). Rayhan Carlos will facilitate the workshop. Guest actors and actresses are expected to join. Call Marilyn Azanza at 415-5920 or (0916) 356-1127.

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MC CANN Ericson-Harrison Communications Group, through its vice president and general manager, Dino Laurena, has appointed Talentworks Asia Inc. as its exclusive talent casting agency.

Effective this April, Talentworks Asia will service all talent requirements of McCann Ericson. It will take over the casting department. Talentworks Asia's CEO Jack Madrid and Talentworks Asia president Girlie Rodis said they will continue to work with other talent agencies to service McCann's and Harrison's many clients.

Freelance talents may send photos and biodata to Talentworks Asia at Unit 2201, 22/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig, Metro Manila 1600 or call 687-0656. You can also log on to http://www.talentworksasia.com for more information.

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Ravens forevermore

Like the emotion of love itself, which occurs at any time of the year, this book is independent of mere temporal considerations

From page G1

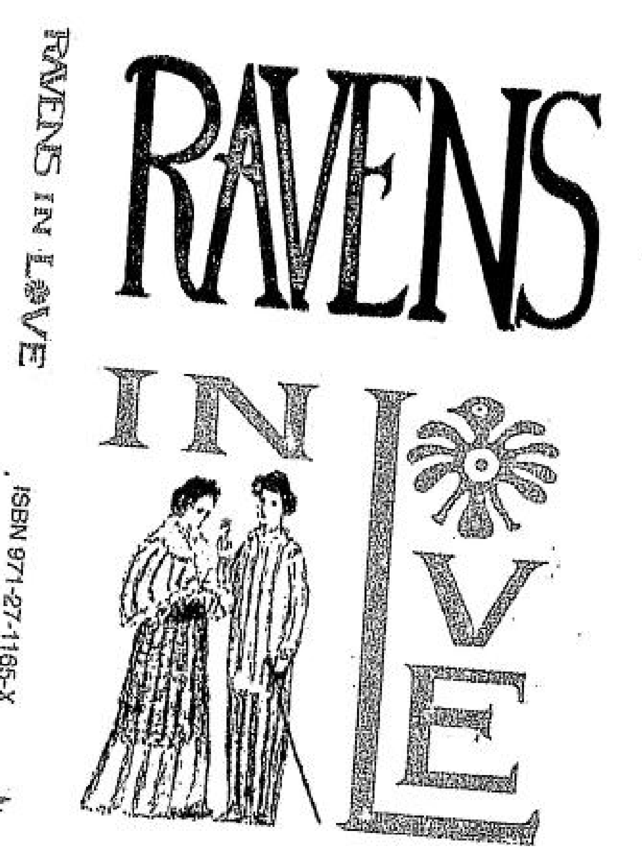
man for another, restrained and moving in its depiction of reciprocal tenderness.

The other is Nick Joaquin's "L'Amour Among the Activists," which is printed as an essay, but in my view at least, is a short story although it is also factual narrative. Its theme is large and it resonated in our lives in recent times—the question of divided allegiance when personal need (e.g. love) clashes with political conviction.

FROM LEFT, Larry Francia, Romulo Chua's widow Elsa, Pacifico Aprieto's widow Virginia, Adrian Cristobal, Andy Cristobal Cruz, Virgie Moreno, Elmer Ordonez, Raul Ingles, Danny Villanueva's widow Mila and Rony Diaz

The focus of the story is not the male character who in the end makes a categorical choice—belief wins over love. But the girl—a spy sent to infiltrate the activists—is the true battleground of the conflict. She, too, in the end, betrays her lover but the betrayal seems to be an act of pure will rather than of natural choice. A true Mata Hari is immune to love. Not so the heroine of Joaquin's story.

All the contributions to the volume at hand have been published before but it is good to have them in more permanent form. The choices of the editor, Larry Francia, who also designed the book, reflect the high literary standards of the "Ravens."



In particular, the translations of a poem of Bonifacio (by Andres Cristobal Cruz) and of poems by Emilio Jacinto and Rizal (by Nick Joaquin) are of great historical value, among other considerations.

It is nice to welcome back in Francia's anthology a play by Alex Hufana and a story by Elmer Ordoñez, as well as poems by Raul Ingles and by Virgie Moreno, the latter a patron of the Ravens in their struggling years and today their canonized saint.

Self-styled

The self-styled Ravens are all from the University of the Philippines, with the exception of one (Joaquin) who is an honorary member. According to Francia, the original group consisted of students or instructors who on impulse decided to form a literary and art association separate from the UP's famed Writers Club, of which incidentally they are all members in good standing.

The Ravens group was born, again according to Francia, over bowls of steaming *mami* at Ma Mon Luk. The name Ravens is from Edgar Allan Poe, but Francia doesn't know why. Poe is hardly a campus icon here, although he was a hero to the French poets of the time, and whose Symbolist movement was inspired by the poetry of Poe. The Symbolists later influenced the American T.S. Eliot and in this way repaid their debt to Poe.

Poe was death-haunted and the Raven in his poem represented Death or the triumph of Death over Poe's lost Lenore.

Writers apart, the raven, a bird of black plumage, is viewed as an omen of evil, possibly because it is a vulture that feeds on the carcass of the dead. On the other hand, the raven is regarded as a god by some tribes of American Indians.

The word "raven" is, in still another sense, merely descriptive. It is the root of the word "ravenous," which is what people become when hunched over a bowl of Ma Mon Luk *mami*.

Rio Alma poetry clinic

THE ANNUAL Rio Alma Poetry Clinic is now accepting applicants to its Batch 2002-2003. The poetry clinic is a nine-month course that includes lectures and workshops conducted by the country's notable poets. It will be facilitated by the officers and members of the Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo (Lira).

Successful fellows of the workshop will become members of Lira. Among the group's illustrious members are Palanca Hall of Famer Robereto T. Añonuevo; journalist and three-time Makata ng Taon awardee Ariel Dim Borlongan; lawyer-playwright Nicolas Pichay; poet-professor Rebecca T. Añonuevo; and performance poet Vin Nadera.

The annual poetry clinic was named after Lira's founder and adviser, distinguished poet Virgilio S. Almario (a.k.a. Rio Alma). Interested individuals should send their application, résumé with 2x2" photo and five samples of their poems to: Lira, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, QC.

Deadline for the submission of applications is April 30. Call Rebecca T. Añonuevo at 641-5067 or Grace Bengco at 527-5529.

My Special Valentine has new titles; raffle extended

BOOKWARE Publishing Corp. has extended its Nokia raffle promo to accommodate entries that keep coming from the avid readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks. But instead of the usual Nokia 3310 as prize, the company is giving away this time a Nokia 8310 every month up to February 2003.

This week the company is releasing 12 new MSV titles. The titles are: "Unwilling Bride," "In My Heart Alone," "Love's Dangerous Journey," "Alaala ng Lumipas," "The Road to the Past," "Silver Lining," "Enchanted Kiss," "Yesterday's Tears," "Our Dreams Will Never Die," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," "Muling Ibalik Ang Kahapon" and "Hearts of Fire."

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DAY 1 (May 17, 2002)
10:30AM Opening Ceremonies
12:00NN Open to the Public
1:00-2:00PM Quiz B (Elementary Division) by: SPIGROW Food Supplement
4:00PM Raffle Draws
5:00PM Entertainment Show
6:00-7:00PM Fashion Show

DAY 2 - SUMMER FUN DAY (May 18, 2002)
10:00AM Exhibit Proper
11:00AM On-the-Spot Painting Contest
1:00PM Quiz B (High School Division)
2:00PM Arts & Crafts Workshop by: LTL HANDS
5:00PM Entertainment Show
6:00-7:00PM Games

DAY 3 - FAMILY DAY!!! (May 18, 2002)
12:00NN Exhibit Proper
1:00-3:00PM Family Feud Game
4:00PM Relay Game for Mom, Dad, & Bonso
5:00PM Fashion Show
7:00PM Announcement of the On-the-Spot Painting Contest Winners

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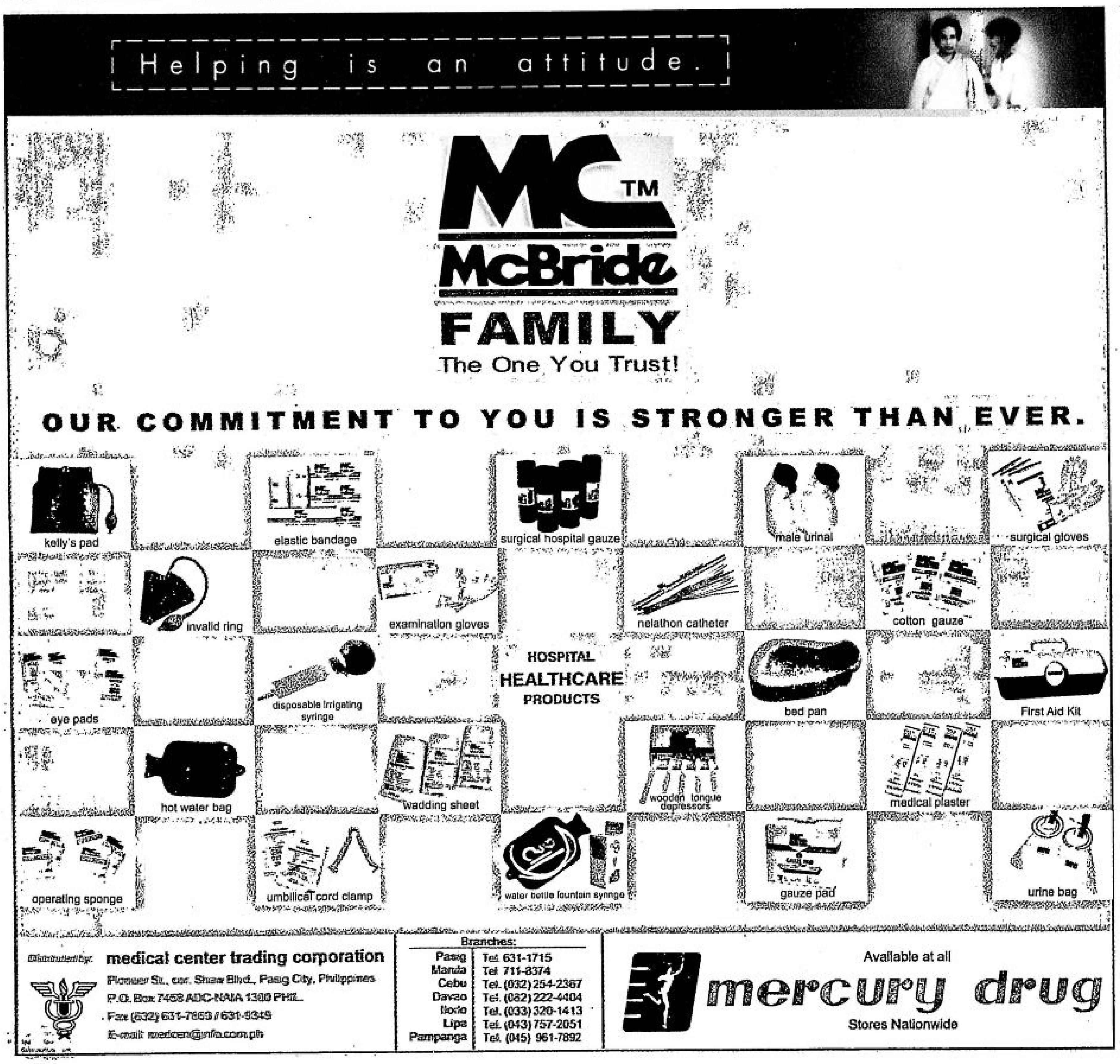
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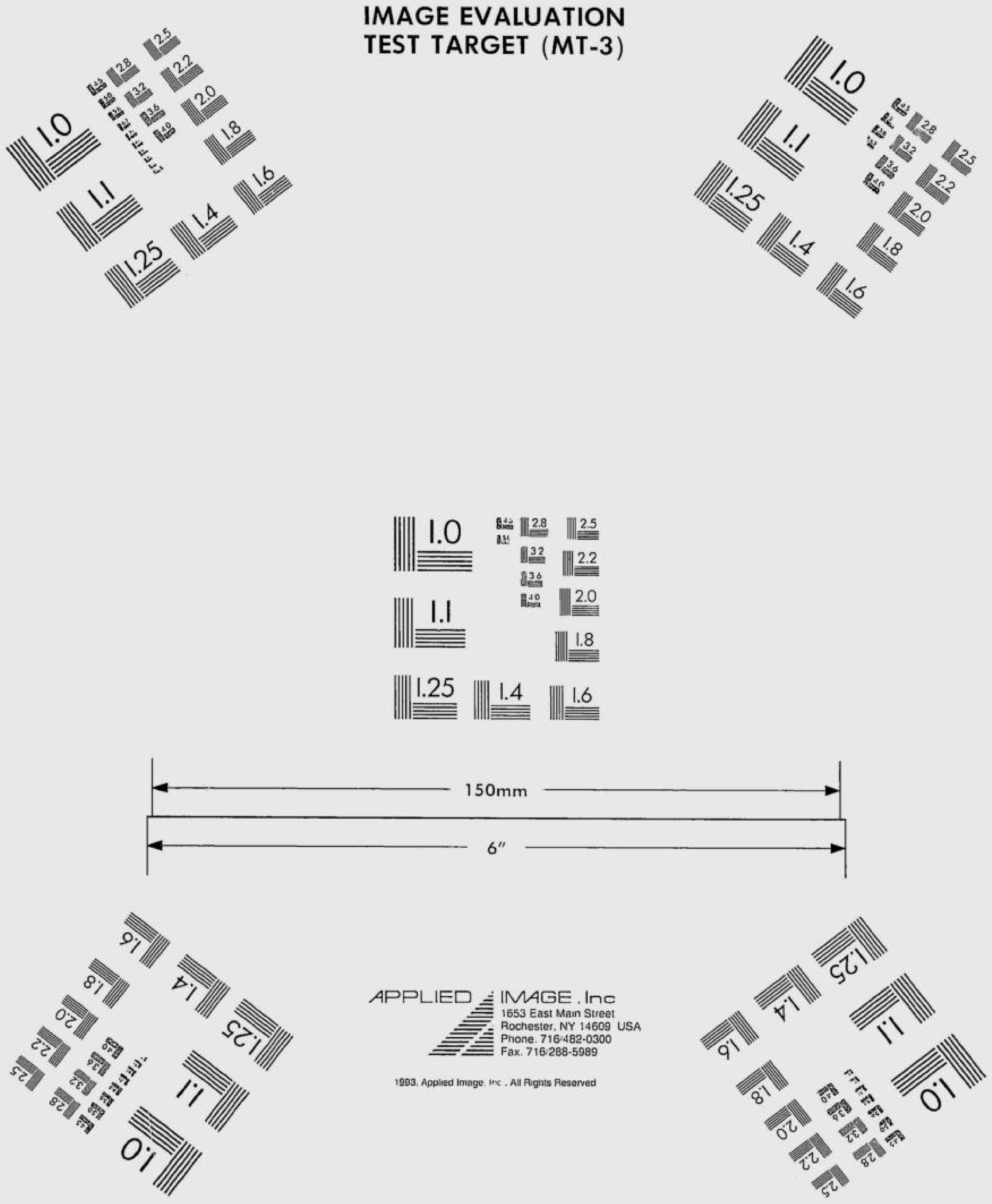
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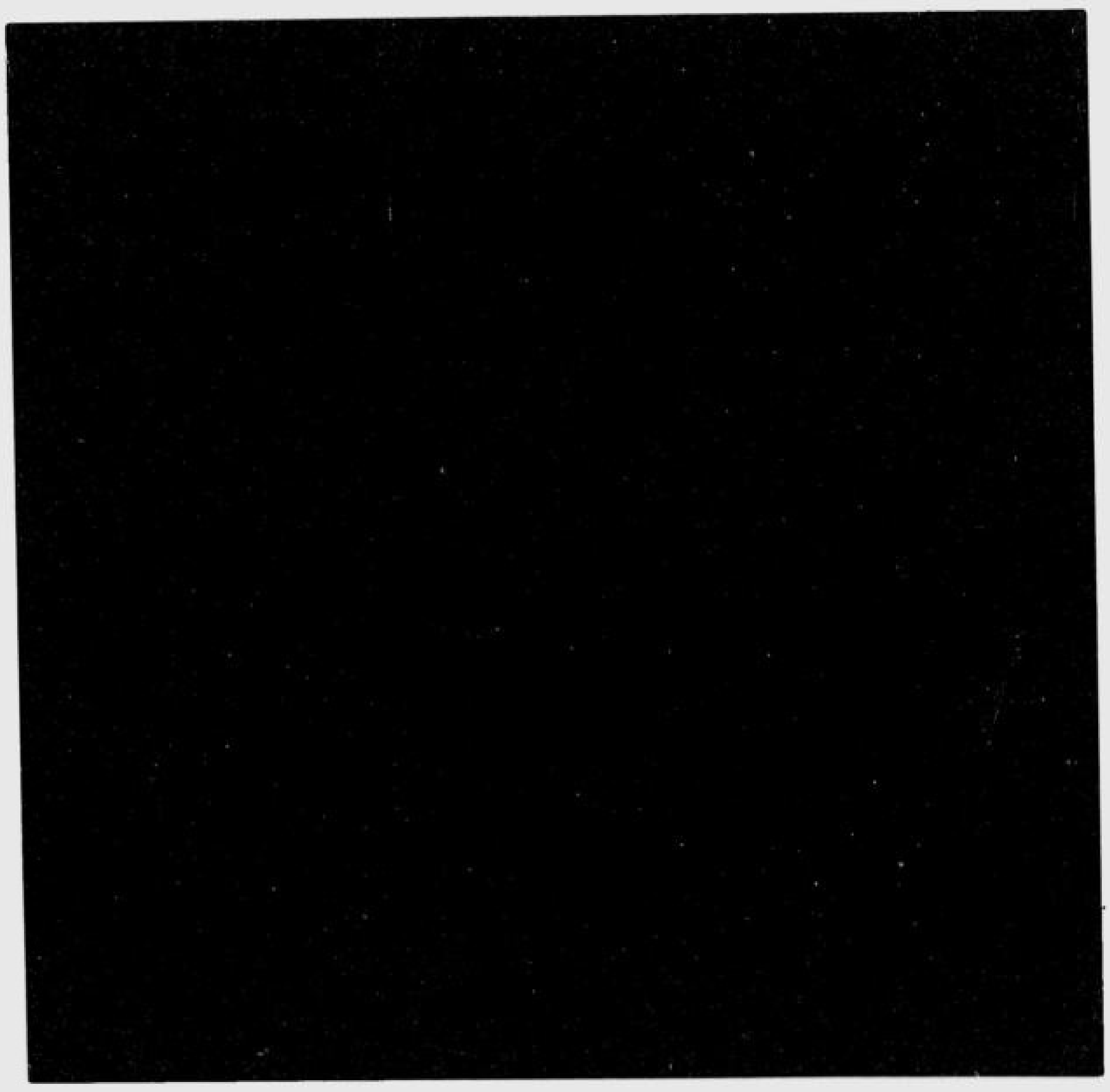

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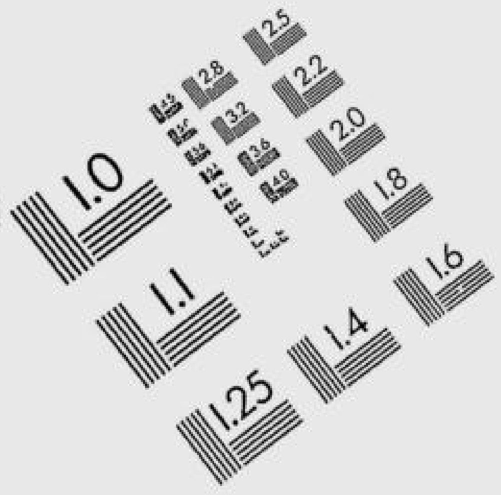
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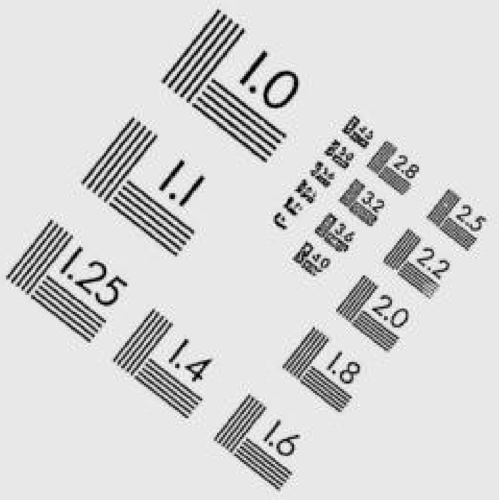
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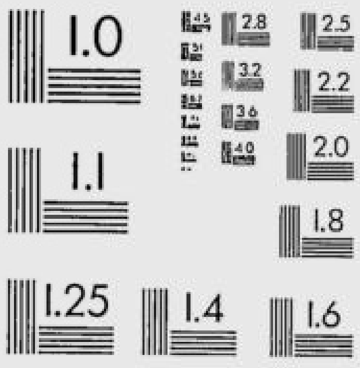
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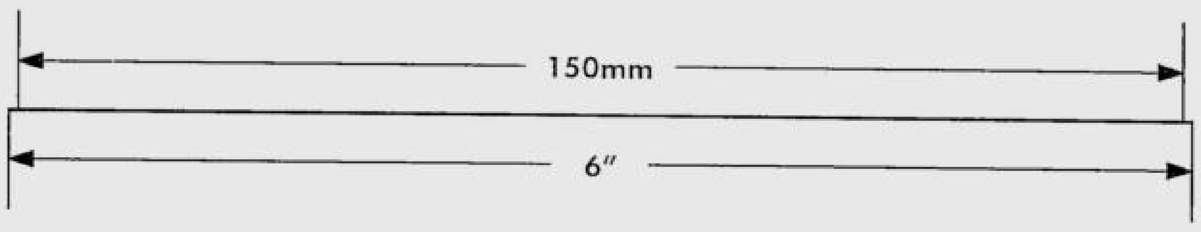

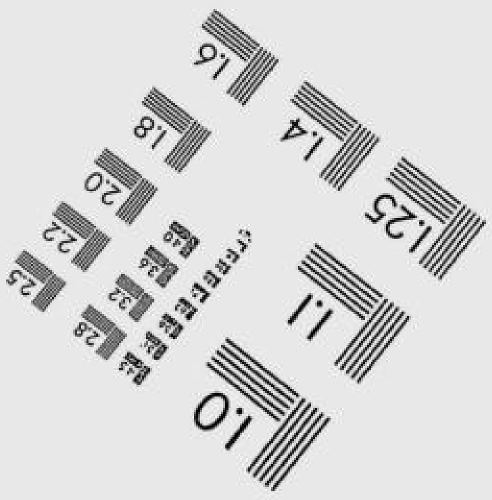
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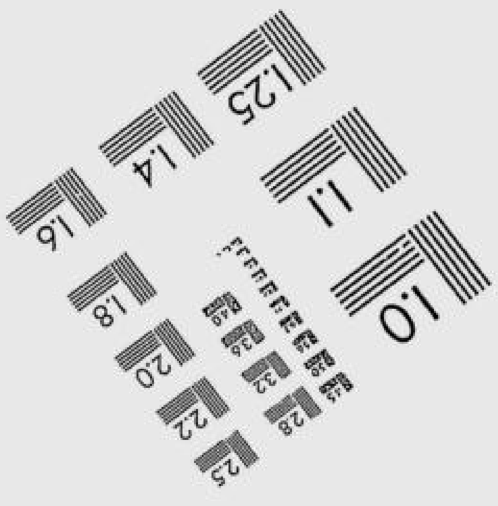
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